



## END OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Why are top heads quitting?

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## NERVES OF STEEL

Setting sail for global adventure

Special supplement



## PICTURE OF HEALTH

A clearer image of motherhood

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# Mellor resigns as Major struggles in Commons

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Mellor resigned as heritage secretary last night, blaming his departure from the cabinet on a "constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers".

On a day when John Major faced his toughest Commons test so far in the emergency debate on the economy, the prime minister had to interrupt his preparations repeatedly to consult his wounded friend and cabinet colleague.

Mr Major accepted Mr Mellor's resignation "with deep regret", adding that he had admired the courage with which his embattled minister had handled the difficult circumstances of recent weeks. In his discussions with the prime minister, Mr Mellor told him that he was resigning because he recognised he had become a "burden" to him and his colleagues.

An announcement about his replacement was not expected last night. Ministers mentioned by MPs as possible successors included Stephen Dorrell, a junior Treasury minister, Tristan Garel-Jones, a junior foreign office minister, and John Redwood, the local government minister.

Bryan Gould, shadow heritage secretary, said that Mr Mellor had performed one last service to the prime minister by timing his announcement to deflect attention from the Commons debate on the economy. Downing Street said that the prime minister had played no part in the timing of Mr Mellor's resignation.

The minister's decision, widely expected at Westminster, ended two months of intense media speculation about his future triggered by the disclosure in July of his affair with Antonia de Sancha, an actress. The pressure on Mr Mellor intensified with a series of newspaper allegations questioning his social and business connections.

The turning point was the inconclusive outcome of the libel action against *The People* brought by Mona Bauwens,

the daughter of a PLO official, over a story about Mr Mellor's family holiday in Spain two years ago paid for by Mrs Bauwens.

The announcement that Mr Mellor was stepping down ended 24 hours of high drama at Westminster. On Wednesday night, he gave a series of spirited television interviews in which he argued that the fundamental question was whether the prime minister or the editors of tabloid newspapers would decide his future.

But yesterday morning he made a lengthy telephone call to Mr Major saying that he was planning to resign. The

decision was not a victory for tabloid newspapers. "This is the first time in ages that David Mellor has done the decent thing. I don't regard this as a victory. We published the details of his affair with Antonia de Sancha because I felt it was in the public interest," Chris Davis, assistant editor of *The Sun*, said. "I am saddened that it has taken so long. A man in public office should realise that the public expect him to have more judgment."

Mr Mellor will make a statement to the Commons this morning explaining his decision to step down.

Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, said: "David Mellor was an extremely able colleague. He got himself into these problems. He's come to a very unfortunate end."

It became clear early yesterday that the executive of the backbench Tory 1922 committee was likely to recommend his departure later in the day. In the event, the announcement was made before the "men in grey suits" passed their verdict.

Mr Mellor also met Sir Norman Fowler, the Tory party chairman, and Richard Ryder, the chief whip, before handing his resignation to the prime minister. Friends of the national heritage secretary indicated last night that while the prime minister and Sir Norman had urged him to stay on, Mr Ryder had said that he might have no alternative.

Most Tory MPs will sympathise with Mr Mellor's plight but accept that in the end, after renewed allegations that he had accepted free holidays, his position had become untenable. Continued on page 18, col 8

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Way out: a dejected David Mellor leaving 10 Downing Street yesterday

# Smith dazzles in exposing Tory U-turn

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday reaffirmed his intention to keep Britain at the heart of the European Community as he took on the Euro-sceptics in his party with a defiant declaration of his determination to go ahead with ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

But his defence of the chaotic devaluation of sterling last week was overshadowed by a dazzling performance by John Smith in his first Commons speech as Labour leader.

Even senior Tories were forced to admit that Mr Smith had scored a triumph with a witty and incisive exposition of the government's U-turn when it took sterling out of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Mr Smith branded Mr Major as a "devalued prime minister" in a speech that gave Labour MPs their biggest boost since the general election.

Mr Major bought more time for himself by setting a new condition on bringing the bill back to the Commons, disclosing that it would not proceed until there is a new system for curbing the powers of the European Commission. That means there is no prospect of the bill returning until next year.

In remarks that pleased the sceptics, Mr Major also confirmed that there could be no question of an early return to the ERM until fundamental reforms have been carried out.

Mr Major was speaking in the special Commons debate on the economy after a cabinet meeting in which the pro-European majority is understood to have issued warnings about the dangers of turning against the EC in the wake of the turmoil last week.

Mr Major was put under pressure by Mr Smith and a cool response by his own backbenchers. But he pleased many cabinet colleagues with the tone of his restatement on

his Europeanism. It was in Britain's interests to play a leading role in the development of the EC by helping to determine the direction of policy, he said. It would not be proper for a British prime minister to agree a treaty and then disown it.

Mr Major, facing his most severe test since he became Tory leader, was felt by Conservative MPs last night to have done as much as he could to hold his party together.

Chancellor Kohl moved swiftly to deny reports that he and President Mitterrand have agreed in Paris to form a five-nation "mini-Europe" inside the EC, as German intervention helped to steady the franc. Page 18

Senior ministers are understood to have told the cabinet that any sign of weakening in Mr Major's support for the principles of Maastricht would lead to a party split. One cabinet minister said yesterday that a reversal of the government's moderately pro-European policy would provoke a schism that could bring it down.

One leading doubter said that Mr Major had been deliberately "eyeballing" his critics. Euro-sceptic ministers appeared satisfied last night with Mr Major's formula on the ERM because it left open the possibility that Britain might not return. "I do not see that we could readily return to the mechanism without dealing with the problems that have been thrown up," he said. There would be a pro-

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## Dear prime minister, with great regret...

By PETER VICTOR

DAVID Mellor's letter to the prime minister made clear he was resigning under pressure from tabloid newspapers.

He wrote: "I have concluded that it is too much to expect of my colleagues in government and in Parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers. Rather than have this turn into a trial of strength between the government and some sections of the press about my future, I have decided to resolve it myself by resigning. I also have to bear in mind the interests of my wife and family who have been such a wonderful support to me during this trying period for all of us."

From the Secretary of State for National Heritage  
THE RT. HON. DAVID MELLOR QC MP  
*Dear Prime Minister,*  
As you know, I decided this morning that I should resign. I am deeply touched by your reluctance to let me do so, but I feel sure this is the right thing to do.  
I am sure that you and colleagues concluded in July that you should accept my resignation of an affair.

Signing off: the resignation letter from David Mellor to the prime minister  
"I leave with great regret... It has been a special privilege to serve under you in the cabinet as chief secretary and as the first secretary of state for national Heritage. It is an opportunity given to few to lead in the creation of a new department of state, especially one which has so much to contribute to your own vision of improving the quality of life in this country. I would have loved to have been able to do more to turn that vision into reality."  
Mr Major's reply read: "I was very sorry when you told me this morning of your decision to resign from the government. As you know, you have always had my warm personal support, and I accepted your decision with deep regret. I admire the courage with which you have handled difficult circumstances in recent weeks."  
"You have been a valued member of my cabinet, both as secretary of state for national heritage and before that as chief secretary. Your knowledge, experience and insight have been invaluable in getting the new department of national Heritage off to a swift and successful start... I will continue to value your friendship and your continued support in the House of Commons. My very best wishes to you and to Judith, who has provided such marvellous support through all this."

## Slings and arrows of outrageous fortune seekers

IF THERE were 600 MPs for whom yesterday's crisis debate was important, there were two for whom it was everything. One waited on the forward benches of the government side. From the front of Labour's ranks, the other faced him. Soon would come the moment upon which the fame of each must ride. Ahead lay a parliamentary performance which could confirm, or wreck, the reputation of either.

Both were tense and excited. Each knew that all eyes would shortly turn his way; each knew what his party required of him, what the press hoped for, what the nation expected.

Neither can have slept on Wednesday night. Both had spent the past week praying for the inspiration, the wit, the turn of phrase to cope with whatever the historic debate might throw at him. How cruel is the burden that our ancient parliamentary system can at a critical moment place upon

MPs waited expectantly for the Battle of the Titans. Matthew Parris witnessed the clash

just one, perhaps two, pairs of shoulders. Still, they were it well. Sir Edward Heath and Dennis Skinner. Ted a little paler, perhaps, than usual. Skinner's tension apparent only from slight tightening of that famous Bolsover jaw. Ted knew that, with That Woman finally out of his hair and at large in Tucson, Arizona, there was none on the Tory benches to challenge his claim to supreme elder statesmanship. Sir Edward would speak for History. With the government's policies in shreds and Europe tottering, that was a tall order. Dennis

knew that, with Frank Haynes gone from the parliamentary Labour party, he was now the undisputed House comedian. Skinner was Mr Hecker as surely as Betty Boothroyd is Madam Speaker. By appointment to the British constitution, *Joker-in-Waiting*. With John Major on the wobble and David Mellor on the slide, that was a big job.

What would they both make of their moment? First we had to sit through routine speeches from two party backs: the prime minister and the leader of the Opposition. First Mr Major. "Resign!" the benches opposite shouted. The PM apparently has been studying old tapes of Enoch Powell speeches over the summer and ground out his own in a stentorian monotone, new-gravelled. Plainly in trouble, he went at it like a bull at a gate, shouting louder as he ploughed in deeper...

"Motion number two," cried Madam Speaker, "United Kingdom economic policy." — "Ha, ha!" they roared, and Skinner, warming up, cried: "Where's Mellor?"

"... There could only have been one response," Major said. — "Resign!" they shouted. "Did Mellor write this?" shouted Skinner.

Eventually, speech over, the PM sat down to a feeble flap of order papers from his own side and continued shouts of "Resign!" from the other. His had been an unhappy speech, but not disastrous.

Smith rose. Scornfully stylish, and sharper than his predecessor. His was a successful speech, but not devastating. Smith may have few better chances to flatten his opponent. Major emerged staggering, but upright.

The battle of the pygmies was over. Continued on page 18, col 6

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## ON OTHER PAGES

### 2,500 car jobs go

Almost 2,500 redundancies were announced by Ford and Rolls-Royce, who told unions they had been forced into the cuts because of the recession. Ford is shedding nearly 1,500 jobs at Halewood on Merseyside and Dagenham, Essex. Rolls-Royce is cutting a third of its 3,200-strong workforce at Crewe, Cheshire, because sales have halved. Page 2  
Leading article, page 15

### Surrey fined

Surrey have been given a £1,000 suspended fine by the Test and County Cricket Board for tampering with the ball in three matches. Page 36

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## Car factory redundancies signal slide into deeper industrial trouble

## Rolls-Royce and Ford to cut 2,500 jobs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD and Rolls-Royce announced yesterday that they were to cut a total of 2,500 jobs, a day after British Aerospace, Britain's leading export manufacturer, said that it was cutting its workforce by 3,000.

The job losses at Ford and Rolls-Royce were seen as further evidence that the motor industry, Britain's biggest manufacturing sector, employing about 250,000 people, is spiralling into depression. Ford had told workers earlier this week that its two main British production plants, at Halewood, Merseyside, and Dagenham, east London, would be on short-time work for the second successive month.

Executives were already moving to reduce the workforce as it became increasingly clear that there is little chance of a revival in new car sales until at least August next year. A total of 1,350 jobs will go at Halewood and Dagenham, with a further 137 in other areas.

Unions have the chance to reduce the number of compulsory redundancies if workers

take a deferment of their 5 per cent pay award, the lowest for ten years, which is due for payment in November. It is an alternative the unions are unlikely to recommend.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford of Britain, said that the cuts were a painful but inevitable consequence of economic difficulties.

Rolls-Royce is reducing its workforce by 950, about a third of the workforce at its factory in Crewe, Cheshire. The factory may make as few as 1,500 cars this year, compared with a peak of 3,300. The company needs to make almost 2,000 cars a year to break even.

Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce's chairman and chief executive, said: "With no sign of any recovery we must take this action now to protect remaining jobs. These changes will give us an opportunity of returning the company to profitability, which is essential for our future. The reshaped business will be smaller but will be in a very good position to take advantage of opportunities for growth as prospects improve."

Rolls-Royce has cut its workforce from more than 5,000 in the past three years. Ford had announced it would shed 2,100 jobs this year before the latest cuts. It has reduced its workforce from 70,000 in 1982 to 37,000. Jaguar announced last week it was making 120 workers redundant, the latest in a batch of about 3,000 job losses.

Union leaders said that the latest round of redundancies was further evidence that Britain's manufacturing base was being wiped out by the recession. Jim Thomas, national officer of the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, called for urgent government action. He said: "We could be sowing the seeds of manufacturing disaster."

Jack Adams, chief Ford negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that Ford had achieved increased efficiency over the past five years and its workers deserved to be treated better. Mr McAllister said that Ford's factories were manned to meet peak sales, not the present depressed market. Staff laid off at Halewood and Dagenham were receiving full pay, a burden that the company could not carry.

"Workers have made great strides in achieving quality and efficiency targets. However, these efforts cannot overcome the basic weakness in demand caused by prevailing economic conditions."

Leading article, page 15  
Vickers blow, page 19  
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Unlucky mascot: Rolls-Royce is sharing in a slump that is hitting all sectors of the British motor industry

## Absent buyers leave gap that productivity gains cannot fill

THE redundancies at Ford and Rolls-Royce, taken in isolation, could be seen as merely the further slimming down of companies trying to increase productivity in an increasingly competitive world (Kevin Eason and Patricia Tehan write).

However, the cuts are part of the retreat from manufacturing that has been forced by three years of the deepest recession since before the second world war.

Among car makers, this recession has been deep and wounding. Unlike the trauma of the 1973 oil crisis and the shake-out of the early eighties, which virtually halved the workforce in the motor industry, car manufacturers should have been efficient enough to withstand further buffeting, with some factories as productive as those in Japan.

Yet the slump in UK sales has been so deep that those big productivity gains may not protect plants and jobs unless buyers are brought back to showrooms quickly.

This week's one point cut in interest rates was too late for Ford and will probably have no effect on Rolls-Royce, which operates in a rarified

strata in which buyers have the money but no will to spend.

The home market has contracted rapidly, to sales that may be as low as 1.5 million this year, from the 1989 peak of 2.3 million. That means orders worth about £7 billion have been taken out of the motor industry.

A big switch to exports has not been sustained as continental markets also veer towards recession and the motor of German reunification runs down. The number of cars shipped abroad between April and June fell 18 per cent.

leading to a decline in the first half of the year of 11 per cent over the first half of last year. As exports shrink, car makers have found no domestic market to retreat to.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is on record as saying that 28,500 jobs in manufacturing and dealerships were lost in the year to mid-1991 and another 30,000 would go by the middle of this year. The prediction seems to have been fulfilled.

For Rolls-Royce, the problems are more acute because it

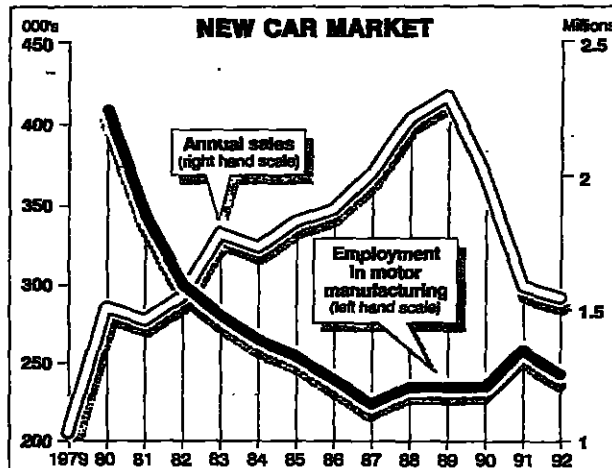
sells such a small number of cars to buyers who are sensitive to the state of the economy, with about nine in ten cars going to company buyers.

One analyst said: "No company chairman will want to be seen in a new Rolls-Royce when he is preaching the virtues of thrift and implementing cutbacks."

For companies that relied on the extravagant purchase there has been no mercy. Jensen called in the receivers; Reliant, which was making sports cars, had to be sold and Lotus scrapped manufacture of its little Elan model.

Ford has found that the bigger the car company, the harder it falls. It once accounted for almost a third of the market, but its share has fallen to about 23 per cent, alongside the total fall in domestic sales. Unlike its competitors, however, Ford was not, until recently, a big exporter of complete cars from the UK.

Halewood was geared up to make 1,100 Escort and Orion cars a day with all its capacity for British sales. By the time Ford had completed an export programme at the plant at the start of this year, European markets were already dwindling.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Patients offered new Down's test

Up to 20,000 pregnant women are to be offered a simple, pain-free new test for Down's syndrome that is likely greatly to reduce the number of seriously handicapped babies born. Kypros Nicolaides, professor of foetal medicine at King's College Hospital, London, who pioneered the new ultrasound test, is writing to all GPs to offer their patients the test at King's.

Professor Nicolaides said that, for many women, this screening would replace unpleasant tests involving introduction of a needle to the womb. "It will mean that these invasive tests — amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS) — can now be reserved for those at the very highest risk of having an affected baby." The new test carried no risk of miscarriage, he said.

Clearer image: L&T section, page 5

## Briton's appeal delayed

A British charity worker sentenced to six years in jail in The Gambia will have to wait a further two months for his appeal to be heard. Phil McLean, 39, was found guilty in July of stealing two diamonds, worth nearly £250,000, from Patek Bowaro, a tribal warlord. He was released on £6,000 bail, raised by friends, pending his appeal. McLean, of Weymouth, Dorset, maintains he was tricked into carrying back to Britain for valuation two stones which turned out to be topaz worth only £300.

## Wider M25 backed

Millions of cars will have to be banned from the M25 if the government drops plans to widen it, the British Road Federation said yesterday. In a report praising the M25 for reducing traffic in central London, the federation said that unless it was widened the motorway would have to be restricted to use by long-distance traffic only. Richard Diment, the federation director, predicted an "environmental disaster" if thousands of local objectors blocked plans to make the M25 14 lanes on some sections.

## Sex attack nurse jailed

A male nurse who tried to rape a woman colleague while on night duty was jailed for four years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Reshad Hosnee, 26, of Mitcham, south London, attacked the 43-year-old woman as she lay in bed at an old people's home in Streatham, southeast London, on May 5 last year. Judge Henry Pownall, QC, told him: "It is lucky for you, and no thanks to you, that the full offence of rape was not committed. It only wasn't, I suspect, because she fought you off."

## 999 delay condemned

A coroner demanded an enquiry yesterday into why it took 16 minutes for a 999 call to be connected to the ambulance service. Sir Montague Levine recorded a verdict of death by natural causes on Daniel Gabriel-Dowouna, 44, of Sydenham, southeast London, who weighed 25 stone and suffered a heart attack. The Southwark inquest was told that Mr Gabriel-Dowouna was dead by the time the ambulance arrived at his home. Sir Montague said that the delay was inexcusable.

## Jeweller charged

Malcolm Hammond, right, a jeweller, who shot two burglars when they broke into his Hertfordshire home in May, has been charged with five firearm offences including unlawful possession of a revolver. Two men are on remand following the incident and a third is in hospital. Mr Hammond, 44, will appear at Stevenage magistrates' court on October 22.



## Tip-off cuts jail term

A raider had five years cut from his jail term yesterday after telling police of a suspected IRA murder plan. Belfast Crown Court was told that Louis Maguire, 27, of Belfast, had spied for the RUC and had told the force of an IRA file on a policeman, allowing police to move the officer from his home before an expected murder attempt. Judge Frank Russell told Maguire, convicted of thirteen robberies and three burglaries, that he would have faced 18 years in jail instead of 13, but for helping to save a policeman's life.

## IRA bombs court cases laboratory

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE fight against terrorism was severely disrupted and 700 homes within a half mile radius were damaged when a 2,000lb IRA bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Forensic Science Laboratory in Newtownbreda, south Belfast.

The attack on Wednesday night against a key centre in the struggle to secure convictions against paramilitary offenders also injured 23 people, none seriously. It was one of the biggest blasts in the province in recent years.

The bomb, planted in a van hijacked in south Armagh three weeks ago, was left on a dual carriageway outside the laboratory and is estimated to have caused damage costing £20 million.

It exploded 40 minutes after a telephone warning, while police were still evacuating the area. The blast, which was heard all over the city, cut power lines and telephone services and shredded the front of the laboratory, bringing down roofs and shattering windows. Two schools have been closed indefinitely for repairs and pupils have been told to stay at home.

Emergency teams spent all night in a huge boarding-up operation to weatherproof the houses and said they had never seen such widespread destruction. Social workers, housing officials, community



services staff and assessors from compensation agencies who set up a special inquiry office were amazed by the degree of destruction.

Stores in the heavily guarded complex housed crucial both prosecution and defence evidence and the blast threatens to cause lengthy delays to court hearings. Noel Spence is a scientist at the laboratory, which dealt with 5,071 cases involving 31,917 items in 1991, including key evidence in terrorist cases. He said: "Vital information may be lost for future cases."

A 50-year-old Roman Catholic workman was shot dead by gunmen as he worked at a house on the Loyalist Ballybeen estate at Duncannon on the outskirts of Belfast yesterday.

## CORRECTION

The Polytechnic of Central London has become the University of Westminster: a fact omitted in our report yesterday.

## 3 PIECE HONEY PINE EFFECT BEDROOM SET

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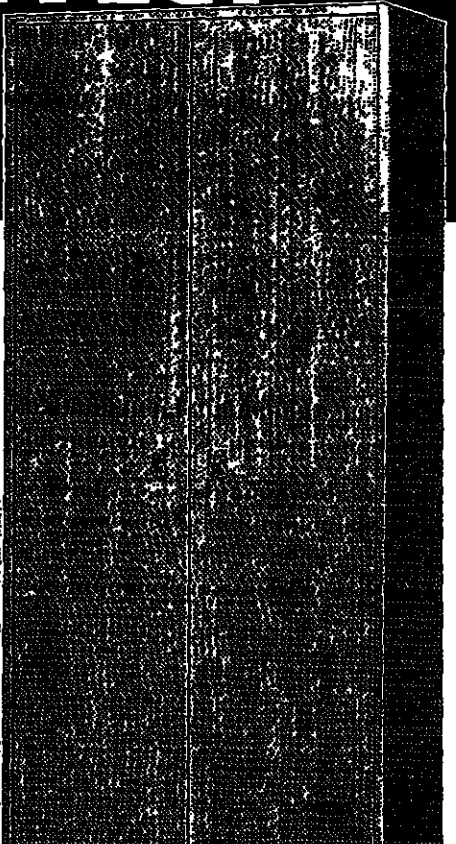
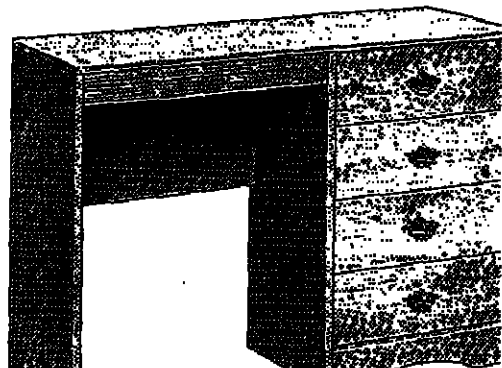
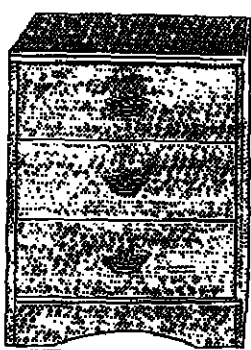
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# Minister of fun's antics failed to amuse the Tory back benches

DAVID Mellor had to go in the end because he had exhausted the patience of his colleagues. It was clear when Tory MPs gathered at the Commons yesterday for the special economic debate that he could no longer remain: the seemingly everlasting revelations about his private life had made him too much of an embarrassment to the government and to the party. As Mr Mellor said in his resignation letter: "It is too much to expect of colleagues in government and in Parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers."

The main regret of many Tory MPs is not just their personal sympathy with Mr Mellor but their strong dislike of giving an apparent victory to the editors of the tabloid papers.

Like many previous resignations, the Mellor saga has been a cumulative process. After the first revelation, there is a rallying round in support of the minister concerned. It is only after subsequent disclosures that his or her position becomes steadily precarious and, for all the desire of a

prime minister to keep an errand colleague, the weight of backbench hostility means that he has to resign.

That happened with Sir Leon Brittan during the Westland affair in 1986. The turning point was when speakers at the weekly meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 committee turned against Sir Leon. He was out within a day.

The same happened with the departure of Edwina Currie over the salmonella and eggs affair in 1988. She was too much of an embarrassment to be retained. The immediate trigger for Mr Mellor's departure as national heritage secretary was a similar verdict from senior Tory backbenchers.

The initial reaction in the party to the newspaper disclosures more than two months ago about Mr Mellor's affair with Antonia de Sancha was that it was not a matter for resignation. John Major, an old friend and a fellow Chelsea supporter, stood strongly behind him. Senior Tories argued that the editors of the tabloid papers could not be allowed to force a minister out of office over a

purely personal matter. Their fear was that, if the tabloids claimed Mr Mellor's scalp, no one would be safe from their scrutiny.

Nonetheless, senior ministers were irritated by Mr Mellor's behaviour after the reports about the affair. They felt that he had behaved insensitively and had been less than frank.

So Mr Mellor had little goodwill left when damaging disclosures were made during the libel case brought against *The People* by Mona Bauwens, an old friend of Mr Mellor and his wife. She is the daughter of a senior financial official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The most serious revelations were that he had accepted generous hospitality from Mrs Bauwens, notably a holiday in Marbella in August 1990, at the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, at no cost to himself or his family. Downing Street said that Mr Major accepted Mr Mellor's judgment that he was not under any obligation to report the gift because he did not believe he was compromised by it. However, Bry-

## THE FALL

David Mellor had to go when he became an embarrassment to his party, says Peter Riddell

an Gould, Labour's shadow heritage spokesman, questioned the propriety of Mr Mellor's acceptance of such hospitality.

Even if the paid holiday was within the rules of ministerial conduct, many Tory MPs argued that Mr Mellor's decision to accept such a generous gift cast serious doubt on his judgment. These questions were underlined by the further revelation that Elliott Bernard, a property developer and investor, had lent Mr Mellor his flat in Mayfair, where he had met Miss de Sancha, and had also loaned him a chauffeur-driven Mercedes during and after the last

general election. There is no suggestion that anything was wrong in this relationship but it added to the impression that Mr Mellor had been too willing to accept the hospitality and generosity of others.

Mr Mellor has also had to overcome the suspicions and, in part, jealousy of many Tory MPs. He has never been widely popular at Westminster. His rise was too fast: joining the government as a junior minister at the age of 32, just over two years after being elected an MP in May 1979.

His style has irritated conformist MPs who have regarded him as too bumptious, too tactless, too keen on personal publicity and perhaps rather too dilettante for a Tory minister. He has seldom been able to resist a sharp remark, often annoying his own side as well as the opposition. It landed him in an international fracas when he ticked off an Israeli colonel on television about treatment of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

To his friends, his enthusiasms have been endearing evidence that

he is not stuffy. He is a much more open politician than many found at Westminster and is regarded as receptive to outside bodies. There will, for instance, be dismay in Broadcasting House at his departure, since senior BBC executives felt that he had taken the trouble to understand the issues facing the corporation and was not motivated by the anti-BBC bias common among Tory backbench MPs.

His flair for seeking, and obtaining, publicity, while irritating some, was also useful to the government when he highlighted the dangers of Aids and went to Pakistan and South America to focus on drug barons.

After his first rapid promotion, his rise was more gradual. He proved himself to be an indispensable under-secretary and minister of state, aggressive when necessary and assiduous in committee in guiding through legislation, notably the contentious broadcasting bill in 1989-90.

He served successively in the energy department, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the health department, the Home

Office again, and as arts minister under Margaret Thatcher. His relations with her were never close and there were public differences over, for instance, the awarding of the ITV franchises. He did not disguise his feelings about the poll tax and her style of government.

He might never have been promoted to the cabinet but for the arrival at No 10 of Mr Major. He became chief secretary to the Treasury, where he was regarded by officials as smart and adept, if not particularly hard-working. After the election he was offered to chance to set up the heritage department in the face of widespread scepticism in Whitehall. He never entirely overcame the jibe that it was the Ministry of Fun.

Mr Mellor stumbled and fell because he stretched his luck and offended the conformists once too often. He will be missed by many more outside the Commons chamber than inside, because he did not always behave like an identity-kit politician. He had considerable strengths and freshness. The flaws which brought about his downfall were part of his charm.

## The telephone call that sealed the minister's fate

By SHEILA GUNN AND NICHOLAS WOOD

DAVID Mellor received a private telephone call yesterday morning which, he knew, sealed his fate. His caller was Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee.

From sources close to the committee, the gist of Sir Marcus's advice appears to have been that, with regret, he believed Mr Mellor had become an embarrassment to John Major. After his resignation Sir Marcus said he personally believed Mr Mellor was right to resign and he predicted that he was young and able enough to return to government one day.

"I am expressing the views of all my colleagues when I say what a loss it is to the government because he was a most able minister. He was in exactly the right job," he said. "There is a general view around that he has been hounded out of office by the press. That does not encourage good relations between Parliament and the press. I hope this sort of campaign will not be repeated."

Another member of the executive was less generous and said Mr Mellor appeared

to be "trading" on Mr Major's personal loyalty by remaining in office. It was significant, he added, that the resignation was announced before the executive's meeting had finished and Sir Marcus had reported its conclusions to the prime minister via Richard Ryder, the chief whip.

Mr Mellor's days were probably numbered as soon as members of the committee's executive disclosed to Westminster journalists on Wednesday that his fate would be discussed at yesterday's meeting. The committee, which played a key role in the Thatcher leadership challenge and helped to bring about the downfall of Edwina Currie over the salmonella-in-eggs affair, acts as the conduit between the back benches and Mr Ryder and ultimately reports to the prime minister personally. Through it Mr Major learns what his MPs will or will not stomach.

The executive are known as the men in grey suits and their job is to glide around the bars and corridors of Westminster taking discreet soundings among their more junior colleagues. From time to time they sit in judgment on a cabinet minister.

Two years ago they had even weighed matters than Mr Mellor on their minds. Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, had been grievously wounded by Michael Heseltine's challenge. The 18-strong executive, under the chairmanship of Cranley Onslow, a former MI6 agent and MP for Woking, met in committee room 17 to consider her future. In the event, they fumbled it. The committee, which has shifted even further to the right since Baroness Thatcher's fall, split along ideological lines over whether she should go or stay.

According to Lord Parkinson's account of the ensuing lunch with Lady Thatcher, Mr Onslow was "more optimistic" about her chances than many other senior Tories. At the time, supporters of Douglas Hurd and Mr Major, who were waiting to enter the fray, dismissed the executive's vagueness as a "cop-out".

Sir Marcus, the right-wing populist who defeated Mr Onslow in a backbench election earlier this year, would not have wanted to make the same mistake yesterday. He ousted Mr Onslow on the promise that he would fearlessly represent the views of backbenchers to the prime minister, even if it meant bringing unwelcome news.

The question mark over Mr Mellor's future could not be seen primarily in crude doctrinal terms. Its members could view the heritage secretary's position unfettered by the loyalties that lie behind so much of Westminster's manoeuvring. Their job was to assess opinion among Tory backbenchers and come to a judgment about whether the interests of the party and the government would be served by Mr Mellor's continuation in office.

Not that the past could be totally forgotten. A few of the executive were supporters of Lady Thatcher and they were not likely to overlook the active role played by Mr Mellor in securing her replacement.



Family profile: Mr Mellor posing with his wife, children and in-laws shortly after the revelations about his affair with Antonia de Sancha



High profile: Mr Mellor, QC, and, right, with a UN official meeting Palestinians during his controversial visit to the Gaza Strip in 1988

## A female friend to suit all occasions

By JOE JOSEPH

PERHAPS typically for a man with a zest for life with a large splash of variety, David Mellor surrounded himself with women to suit every occasion.

Antonia de Sancha, the leggy out-of-work actress who allegedly exhausted him with passionate nights of toe-sucking and sex, offered a contrast to his dutiful wife, Judith. Mrs Mellor's chair-store wardrobe may have cost more than de Sancha's but she could not match the younger woman's inventiveness for turning a bedsheet into a party frock.

Once de Sancha's three-month affair with Mellor was splashed across the tabloids the Rada-trained actress portrayed herself as more sinned against than sinning. This image began to fray as details emerged of her starring role in *The Pieman*, a soft-porn film in which she played a

one-legged prostitute bedded by the pizza man.

Mona Bauwens, whose taste in dresses runs more to Armani than Army & Navy, was neither as solidly suburban as Judith nor as pouting and penniless as de Sancha. She had inherited a fortune

from her rich Arab father Jaweed al-Ghoussein, a businessman and chairman of the Palestine National Fund. With it came the opportunity to indulge her interest in film production and party-throwing.

Revelations that she had paid for a lavish family holiday with the Mellors was perhaps the biggest glitch in Bauwens' rise through the upper reaches of British society and the international jet set.



Contrast: Mrs Bauwens, Miss de Sancha, Mrs Mellor

## 'I am perceived by some as a point of weakness'

This was the exchange of letters between David Mellor and the prime minister.

Dear Prime Minister, As you know, I decided this morning that I should resign. I am deeply touched by your reluctance to let me do so, but I feel sure this is the right thing to do. I was very grateful that you and colleagues concluded in July that my folly in becoming embroiled in revelations of an affair did not warrant my leaving the Government.

I am also very glad that following advice in the normal way, you have been able to make it clear that in relation to subsequent allegations, I have acted within the guidance on the conduct of ministers.

However, I have concluded that it is too much to expect of my colleagues in government and in Parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers. Rather than have this turn into a trial of strength between the government and some sections of the press about my future, I have decided to resolve it myself by resigning. I also have to bear in mind the interests of my wife and family who have been such a wonderful support to me during this particularly trying period for all of us. I leave with great regret. I have been privileged to hold office for 11 years in a series of jobs of enormous interest and I believe of some

importance, especially in relation to drugs, broadcasting, the NHS and foreign affairs. It has been a special privilege to serve under you in the cabinet as chief secretary and as the first secretary of state for national heritage. It is an opportunity given to few

## THE LETTERS

lead in the creation of a new department of state, especially one which has so much to contribute to your own vision of improving the quality of life in this country. I would have loved to have been able to do more to turn that vision into reality. I shall of course continue to serve as member for Putney. I love my constituency and will do all I can to advance the interests of my constituents from the backbenches. I shall also do everything in my power to support and sustain the government in the months and years ahead.

The country is fortunate to have you as our prime minister. I am privileged to count you as a dear friend. I do not want to be seen as a liability to you. It is my one great regret about this whole sorry business that at this crucial time in the government's fortunes, when I should so much have liked to be seen as a tower of strength, I am perceived by some as a point of weakness. I hope I deal with that matter today by taking this step.

Mr Major replied: I was very sorry when you told me this morning of your decision to resign from the Government. As you know, you have always had my warm personal support, and I accepted your decision with deep regret. I admire the courage with which you have handled difficult circumstances in recent weeks. You have been a valued member of my cabinet, both as secretary of state for national heritage and before that as chief secretary. Your knowledge, experience and insight has been invaluable in getting the new department of national heritage off to a swift and successful start.

I know from the messages of support I have received from those in the arts world and elsewhere how much your leadership, interest and enthusiasm will be missed. It is a matter of great regret that you will not be overseeing the next stage in the development of the department, but you have laid a sound foundation for the future. Before that, you handled the difficult job of chief secretary to the Treasury with great skill and determination and made an important contribution in a wide range of other ministerial jobs.

I will continue to value your friendship and your continued support in the House of Commons. My very best wishes to you and to Judith, who has provided such marvellous support through all this.

## A case of death by a thousand cuttings

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IN a final plea for loyalty from the troops, an embattled David Mellor declared Wednesday night that his political future hung on the outcome of a war being waged between the prime minister and tabloid editors.

Yesterday the tabloids won. Ever since *The People* first unveiled his relationship with the actress Antonia de Sancha last July, the heritage secretary has been relentlessly pursued by the editors of "four or five tabloids" determined to force his resignation. Only the unwillingness of John Major to let tabloids dictate the composition of his cabinet kept Mr Mellor in office until yesterday.

Last night tabloid editors were unrepentant. Richard Stott, editor of *The Daily Mirror*, said only the heritage secretary could be blamed for his own downfall. "We did not have an affair with Antonia de Sancha nor did we take an all expenses paid holiday with

## THE PRESS

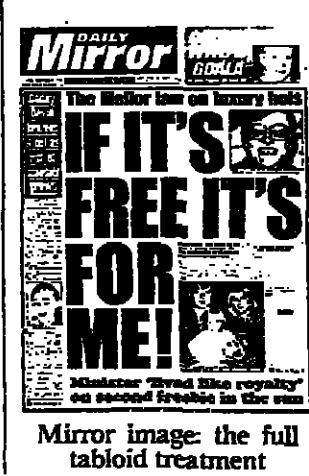
Mona Bauwens at a time when this country was facing its worst crisis since the Second World War," he said. Bill Hagerty, editor of *The People*, denied that the resignation was a victory for tabloids. "He is blaming the tabloids because that is what the establishment always does," he said.

In his resignation letter, Mr Mellor said it was "too much to expect of my colleagues in government and parliament to have to put up with a constant barrage of stories about me in certain tabloid newspapers. Rather than have this turn into a trial of strength between the government and some sections of the press I have decided to resolve it myself by resigning."

Despite Mr Major's unflinching support, a barrage of fresh front-page headlines and new revelations about Mellor's liaisons, luxury flats and free lavish holidays made Mr Mellor's position grow more perilous daily. But *The Daily Mail's* calls for Mr Mellor's resignation were more persistent than any other tabloid even the Labour supporting *Daily Mirror*.

Paul Dacre, *Daily Mail* editor, would not comment on his paper's campaign, but Chris Davis, assistant editor of *The Sun*, said: "I am saddened that it has taken so long. A man in public office should realise that the public expect him to have more judgment."

Ultimately Mr Mellor's confidence that he could override a welter of embarrassments with Mr Major's backing, even with the Fleet Street pack in full cry, showed a man whose arrogance overrode his common sense.



Mirror image: the full tabloid treatment



## Prime minister faces Opposition attacks on policy in emergency Commons sitting

## Quick British return to ERM ruled out

By ROBERT MORGAN AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITAIN will not be rejoining the European exchange rate mechanism soon, nor the same mechanism it left last week, John Major told MPs yesterday. The mechanism would have to be carefully re-examined before Britain went back in, he told the emergency sitting of the Commons.

But he made it clear that the fight against inflation goes on, and that public spending will be kept under tight control.

The prime minister entered the packed chamber to loud cheering and the waving of order papers by Tory backbenchers and good-natured shouts of "resign" from Labour MPs.

He opened by laying down the essential conditions for Britain's economic success: low inflation, low taxes, free trade and freedom from excessive state interference. "I am happy to reaffirm those principles today. We stand for a low-inflation and a low-tax economy and so, I believe, do the British people. That is why five months ago they made their choice and we sit here and they [Labour MPs] sit there."

Britain had joined the exchange rate mechanism to help to bring down inflation, and it had succeeded, he said. Government policy had had the backing of industry, commerce, the trade unions and the Labour party. "In the exceptional circumstances of

last week we were obliged to suspend our membership of the exchange rate mechanism. There was no choice. The mechanism could not withstand a market attack on the scale that occurred.

"I do not see that we could readily return to the mechanism without dealing with the problems that have been thrown up. These need careful examination, careful consideration before we can decide whether such a mechanism can be made to work to the benefit of all its members."

Some fundamentalists said it could not and others said Britain should pop straight back in. "I have no intention of being bound to either course without a proper examination of where future British interests lie," Mr Major said. "But I do not believe that we shall be able to go back into the mechanism soon, or into the same mechanism we left."

The prime minister emphasised that lower interest rates alone would not achieve the objective of non-inflationary growth. This depended even more crucially on keeping firm control over public spending. The policy was tough but necessary.

The Maastricht treaty was less important than the pro-Europeans claimed and not as far-reaching as the sceptics

said. Mr Major had refused to commit Britain to a single currency and did not believe there would be convergence of economies by the mid-1990s. Those with ambitions for a single currency must now have those ambitions postponed.

Warning MPs that a further Danish rejection of the Maastricht treaty would mean it could not proceed, Mr Major said: "It would not be acceptable for the 11 to go ahead without Denmark and against the will of the Danish government and people. That cannot happen; and it will not happen." The bill was not dead, and when the Danes had made their decision, it would be examined again.

"Those who assume it is dead have overlooked two things. Firstly, that there is much in it that we want. Secondly, that, with the consent of the Commons, I agreed. I do not believe it would be proper for a British prime minister to agree a treaty and then disown it." The bill would return to the Commons when the Danish decision was known.

Announcing the details of a special meeting of the European Council, to be held in Birmingham next month, Mr Major said that the council "needs to respond to the concerns that people right across Europe have shown about the direction of Community policy: to review what is wrong with the ERM and how the system can be made to work better in future." It would also address itself to Danish concerns and give further impetus to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks.

"Over recent months our concerns about the Community have been mirrored across Europe. The British agenda is now on the table. I have never seen our future as being a sour, isolated country off the mainland of continental Europe. That surely cannot be the way for us. Even though some will swallow hard at compromises that may need to be made, they should remember that others will have to compromise as well."

"The voice that is raised to say we should look only after our own interests is the voice of narrow self-interest. Such a voice always has resonance in politics. And it is almost always wrong."

"Such a policy is more certain than any other to begin with cheers and end in tears."

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Up in the air: Major wrestles with the economy and cabinet crisis, derided in the Commons by John Smith

## 'Devalued' prime minister attacked

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith set the House of Commons alight with a ferocious attack on the prime minister's handling of the economy. Accusing Mr Major of being "a devalued prime minister of a devalued government", Mr Smith used his first Commons performance as Labour leader to ridicule the prime minister's betrayal of his own policy.

Opening to roars of Labour support, Mr Smith told Mr Major: "You don't know what your economic policy is — that was startlingly clear in your speech." With Neil Kinnock looking on from the backbenches, Mr Smith claimed that the prime minister's policy was now utterly discredited.

"Who was it who said that to leave the ERM would be the inflationary option and a betrayal of our future and, in that very same speech, said: 'There is going to be no devaluation, no realignment? We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown, whose incompetence has been exposed,'" he said.

"It would no longer do to blame others or say that their policies would, given time, come right. The Conservatives had been in power for the longest continuous period in post-war Britain. They are the architects — the sole constructors — of our country's

dismal situation," he added. "In the course of a few weeks, the one policy with which the prime minister was uniquely and personally associated has been blown apart. And with it has gone for ever any claim by the prime minister or the party he leads to economic competence. He is the devalued prime minister of a devalued government."

Mr Smith's acerbic swipes

"We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown"

at both the prime minister and the Chancellor "chucking in the docks" led to three interventions from Mr Major, who looked increasingly wounded.

Mr Smith had his own backbenchers doubled up with laughter as he paraded a series of statements and reports leading up to the government's dramatic U-turn on devaluation.

Enjoying every moment of his Commons debut as Labour leader, Mr Smith began by deriding the prime minister's stated ambition — in a report in *The Sunday Times* — for sterling to replace the mark as Europe's most stable cur-

rency. He cited the response of Goldman Sachs, the investment bankers, to the article. "The prime minister certainly had his work cut out, much the same as Eddie the Eagle had in attempting to win gold at the Winter Olympics a few years ago."

He also mocked the prime minister's speech to the Scottish CBI on September 10 when he said there would be no devaluation of the pound. Within a week Britain had withdrawn from the ERM

in weeks. At the general election Mr Major had told people to vote Tory on Thursday and recovery would continue on Friday. He claimed that Britain was lurching back to Thatcherite economic policies which "pulverised" the economy during the 1980s.

He challenged Mr Major on why he did not press for a general realignment within the ERM once the extent of the sterling crisis became clear. This would have saved Britain from being forced to leave the ERM and the government from having to spend £1 billion propping up the currency.

Mr Major angrily tried to reassert his authority by claiming that Labour policy was to devalue every time there was a speculative attack on sterling. Mr Smith countered that the prime minister was walking blindly on while the crisis unfolded. Mr Major said the government had been forced to devalue against its wishes "because of the inevitability of the size of the speculation, which no one could ever have foreseen."

Mr Smith concluded his attack with warnings about the public expenditure cuts to come as a result of the government's action. "The price will be paid by the British people in lost jobs, unmet needs, missed opportunities and declining services."

## Backbench views



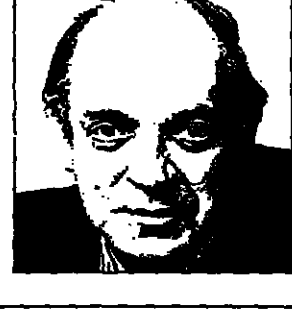
Sir Edward Heath, former Tory prime minister: "Our nation at this time is suffering from shock and is much confused... I believe that it is looking to this House today for clarification."



John Watts (Con), chairman of the Commons Treasury committee: "If you find that you are facing a wall, it is not sensible to bang your head against it. It is sensible to walk away and find an alternative way round."



Terence Higgins, former Tory Treasury minister: "My feeling is that the Chancellor, in the past few days, having declared his policy, did everything possible to achieve it."



John Biffen, former Tory cabinet minister: "Speculators aren't just a lot of yuppies from Essex in their braces, they are people of considerable sophistication."

## Government 'puts unity of Tory party first'

THE government had lost its credibility and would not be trusted again, Paddy Ashdown said. The sooner it went, the better.

The Liberal Democrat leader mocked the government and the prime minister for failing to set out government policy. The House, he said, was being invited to approve the government's economic policies and he would have liked to have heard what they were. John Major's speech, probably intentionally, gave no indications.

The one-line resolution be-

fore the House said nothing or could be read to mean whatever you wanted it to mean, not only on the government backbenches, but in the cabinet as well. It was the only resolution the Conservative party could have put down which they could all vote for. The unity of the Conservative party came first.

Since last Wednesday the government had been trying to shift the blame on to the Germans. Whenever any-

thing went wrong the first action was to blame others instead of taking action to put things right. He condemned as "discreditable" the attacks on the Germans.

The origins of the débâcle rested with the underlying weakness of the British economy over the past 40 years, and not least in the decision in 1985 not to join the ERM then. He attacked John Major for joining the ERM at the wrong time. But he said, the then Chancellor had joined in 1990 immediately before the Tory party confer-

ence. Another case of short-term economic management for the benefit of the Conservative party. That had always dictated government policy.

Britain, he said, had to get back into the ERM, although this would be difficult. There was no refuge in an exchange rate policy which allowed freedom to devalue, freedom to suffer inflation, freedom to have lower growth, freedom to decline while others prospered, freedom to boom and bust as Britain had for the past 40 years. There was no refuge on the periphery of Europe.



Ashdown: no refuge on periphery of Europe

## New intake threatens disruption

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EURO-SCEPTICS

ALTHOUGH John Major appears to be resigned to the odd unhelpful outburst from Baroness Thatcher and her cohorts, he could rue the day he sent them up to the other place.

From their eyrie in the Lords, they have tremendous potential for making life difficult for the government, particularly if the bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty is revived.

The peers in recent years have tended to take a more pro-European stance than the MPs. But the division of opinion has been levelled somewhat by the new intake.

Tactical handling of Lady Thatcher, together with Lords Tebbit, Ridley and Parkinson, will be left largely in the hands of the prime minister's chief troublemaker, Lord Wakeham. If anyone in Parliament has the necessary skills for defusing revolts it is the new Leader of the Lords. He is also one of that dwindling band of senior politicians who has not only the ear of the prime minister but remains on good terms with his predecessor.

backed up her former like-minded friends Lords Joseph and Boyd-Carpenter, have the advantage denied to the Euro-sceptics in the Commons of the much laxer procedures in the Lords. The upper House is self-regulatory, with no guillotine to limit debate and no restrictions on the number of amendments which can be tabled and discussed.

Lord Heslth, the government's chief whip, relies on the predominantly elderly House loathe to go on into the early hours to limit debate. But it only takes a determined stand by the awkward squad to wreck his tactics.

Ranged on the other side of the fence is a formidable band of former politicians and former EC bureaucrats with their feet firmly planted on the Euro train. Scattered around the Lords they include Lord Howe of Aberavon, Lord Healey, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Cockfield, and the favourite to become the new leader of the Labour peers,

Lord (Ivor) Richard. To muddy the waters further, Lord Wakeham cannot forget the voting power of the big businessmen and bankers, most of whom were given the emirine by the former prime minister. As a pragmatic bunch, the Lords Hanson, King, Laing, Boardman and their ilk, tend to give their loyalty to the Tory leader of the day.

So long as votes are timed to catch them in the twilight hour, ideally around 6.30, between the close of City business and dinner, they are reasonably obedient to the party whip. But they have been sorely tested by the recession, culminating in last week's debacle which left the government effectively without an economic or European policy. Some, such as Lord Hanson, have made it clear that Norman Lamont is now on probation.

With little power of patronage to call on, Lord Wakeham will have to rely chiefly on persuading doubting peers by argument, rather than cracking the whip.

## Gould is silent

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Gould yesterday made a determined effort to toe Labour's official line on Europe by effectively keeping his lips sealed.

While keeping his commitment to launch a highly critical pamphlet attacking the Maastricht treaty and the exchange rate mechanism, Mr Gould accepted collective shadow cabinet responsibility and refused to be drawn into publicly repeating his criticism on these issues.

The chief cabinet rebel decided not to undermine John Smith's leadership or jeopardise his own position by challenging the pro-European line adopted by the shadow cabinet on Wednesday.

Shadow cabinet members are privately angry that Mr Gould wrote an article in the *New Statesman* which appeared today, attacking Labour's position in Europe, and pre-recorded an interview for the BBC's *On the Record* programme on Sunday.

## Four former Chancellors unite

By SHEILA GUNN

LOREDS

ONE Conservative and three Labour peers, all former Chancellors of the Exchequer, came together to warn the government not to be seduced into believing the British economy would benefit from leaving the pound floating outside the ERM.

In an unprecedented show of unity, Lords Callaghan, Healey, Jenkins and Howe found themselves in broad agreement on the long-term dangers of becoming isolated on the fringes of Europe.

During the Lords emergency debate on the economy, the strength of the rhetoric varied, with Lord Healey mounting the strongest condemnation of the government's handling of the economy in recent weeks, and particularly of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor.

Lord Healey said: "What is most depressing is that the Chancellor should have chosen deliberately this very moment to excite the worst form of xenophobia, egged on by passionate shrieks from Baroness Thatcher."

the Tory benches, one of the peers' strongest forms of protest, he went on: "It is not good to see a Chancellor set like a cut-price Jean-Marie Le Pen [leader of the French National Front], or as the Italian prime minister described him, 'a tot in a tantrum'."

Lord Healey, and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, now leader of the Liberal Democrat peers, said Mr Lamont should resign. Lord Howe and Lord Callaghan urged an early return to the ERM.

Lady Thatcher and her Euro-sceptic colleagues, Lords Tebbit, Ridley and Parkinson, did not speak in the Lords debate. Lord Healey said Mr Major had "betrayed the future of our own people without a word of apology."

The former Labour prime minister, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, said: "Britain and Europe have arrived at one of those rare moments in politics when the decisions we take and what we do in the

weeks ahead will influence for years ahead the course of European history." The wrong course could set off a resurgence of old and virulent nationalism.

Only recently the government was declaring that, if Britain hung on, sterling could replace the mark as the benchmark currency. "We can only conclude that ministers deceived themselves as well as us."

Hearing Lord Wakeham "defend the indefensible", he felt sorry that ministers did not take the advice of Kipling, which should be hung over Mr Lamont's bed, saying: "It was our fault and a very great fault but now we must turn it to use. We have 40 million reasons for failure but not a single excuse." On Maastricht he said Britain was still looking for a clear statement of the government's intention.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead said it would have been "proper and wiser" for Mr Lamont to follow James Callaghan's example in 1969 and "honourably" resign.

## BRIEFS

## Hospitals urged to compete

Operating theatres should be used at night and on Sunday afternoons within a health service which should take financial lessons from industry, a senior health economist told hospital managers yesterday (Alison Roberts writes).

Speaking at the first NHS Trust Federation conference in Harrogate, Professor Alan Maynard, of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, said that self-governing hospitals within the new competitive health service should follow the example of the water, telephone and electricity industries and offer "loss-leading" and "super-saver" services.

Far more aggressive marketing tactics must be employed by rival hospitals hoping to attract custom from purchasing health authorities, he said.

His suggestions were met with enthusiasm by delegates who are well versed in marketplace jargon. John Gresham, chairman of the NHS Trust Federation, said: "There are no sacred cows whatsoever and we should ask ourselves many questions about how we do things."

Earlier, delegates heard Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, predict that most hospitals would opt out of local authority control within the next few years. Announcing her approval of almost all the 150 third wave trust applications, Mrs Bottomley said that interest in the fourth wave was already growing. However, the self-governing units would have to be made more accountable as their numbers increased to a potential 450 after the third wave. She ruled out a form of direct management which would "throttle" freedom of trusts, but supported the idea of a buffer tier between trusts and the health department.

## Scots fight water sale

The Scottish National Party yesterday launched a campaign against the privatisation of water in Scotland, claiming that the government's plan would amount to theft "for private profit and greed" (Kerry Gill writes).

The water issue has become one of the party's main campaigning planks, with members determined to fight privatisation as hard as they fought the poll tax. Andrew Welsh, the SNP vice-president, said the campaign marked "the start of an all-out war" against privatisation.

Mr Welsh, who moved the resolution opposing privatisation, said: "The Tories have no Scottish mandate to privatise water supplies. This privatisation is another example of Scotland receiving policies for which we did not vote for a government we overwhelmingly rejected."

He claimed that Westminster governments had starved Scottish water services of investment and hobbled them with an unfair debt structure, leaving authorities to spend more on interest payments than they invested in water services.

## Council tax warning

Labour gave a warning of chaos over the council tax, which comes into operation next April. Doug Henderson, the Opposition local government spokesman, said: "If only 5 per cent of households appeal against their council tax banding, then one million appeals will have to be heard. This could cause the same chaos as beset the poll tax."

He went on: "Householders are much more likely to appeal than the government ever imagined. Many householders will feel that their properties are over-valued because of falling house prices and many will, no doubt, attempt to make out a case that the value of their property fell before the valuation date of April 1991."

He called on the government to give a commitment that any successful appeal would mean that overpaid cash was returned with interest.



## New treatment gives hope to victims of arthritis

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW treatment for rheumatoid arthritis has produced dramatic improvements in people crippled by the disease.

Long-term patients who were showing no benefit from established therapies have been able to go for walks or play with their children for the first time in years. One man felt so much better he went out and started a business.

The treatment, developed at Cambridge University's pathology department, uses specially modified antibodies to attack the immune system cells that are believed to be responsible for causing the disease. A single course of treatment over 10 days produced improvements lasting for up to eight months in the eight patients tested. Some were treated a second time and have had relief from pain for more than a year.

The treatment has been licensed to the Wellcome Foundation, which recently launched trials on 40 patients in Europe and the US.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a crippling condition affecting about 500,000 people in Britain. Sufferers endure growing pain and loss of flexibility in the joints. Existing drugs can help to alleviate the pain and improve movement but cannot cure the condition.

The disease is believed to result from a failure of the immune system to distinguish friend from foe. Instead of attacking only alien organisms such as bacteria and destroying them, the T cells in the immune system attack the body, setting in motion the process that damages the joints.

The Cambridge research-

ers, who report their results in *The Lancet* today, have developed a treatment designed to knock out the T cells by using monoclonal antibodies. These are antibodies engineered to order so that they bind with the T cells, destroying them.

Because the antibodies are derived in the first place from rats, they would normally be rejected just like an organ transplant between different species. To get around this problem, the Cambridge team "humanised" the rat antibodies by replacing the part that binds to the antigen with the equivalent binding region from a human antibody.

They treated the patients by infusing samples of the humanised antibody, known as Campath-1H, into the bloodstream. The treatment takes two to four hours a day for ten days and, according to Dr John Isaacs, the team leader, produces an immediate improvement.

"The antibodies kill off most of the circulating T cells," he said yesterday. "While in theory this should expose the patients to other infections, that doesn't seem to happen. Patients who have had the treatment show a dramatic response. Some were so lively we had to restrain them from doing too much."

The Cambridge scientists hope to try the antibody treatment on psoriasis, a skin disease also believed to be linked to the T cells. Wellcome's trial is aimed at rheumatoid arthritis and at non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the immune cells.

Health Times, L&T section, page 5

## Missiles thrown at death joyrider

By Ronald Faux

A JOYRIDER who killed two young children while on bail for two other reckless driving offences was sentenced to a total of seven and a half years' detention by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday.

Missiles were thrown from the public gallery when Mr Justice Hidden sentenced Christopher Lewin, 19, to four and a half years concurrently for each of the manslaughter offences and banned him for driving for seven years. He was given 18 months each, consecutively, for two reckless driving offences. Friends and relatives of the dead children, who had earlier been ejected after trying to attack Lewin, were prevented from storming back into the court.

When the court was told by the defence that Lewin was remorseful, an aunt of one of the victims rushed between lawyers and tried to reach the dock. She shouted: "You took her away from me. Kill him, kill him." Other people who tried to clamber over the security screen between the public gallery and the dock were ejected as prison officers bundled Lewin to safety.

Lewin, of Toxteth, Liver-

pool, had admitted the manslaughter of Adele Thompson, 12, of Fairfield, Liverpool, and Daniel Davies, 9, of Toxteth, on October 30 last year. He admitted 17 other offences, including ramming two police cars.

The court was told how a stolen high-performance car driven by Lewin crashed into the two children and another boy. They had all been collecting for Guy Fawkes night. Lewin had lost control of the car at 60mph. Adele was flung 90ft by the impact and Daniel, who died on November 5, was flung 50ft.

Lewin and his passenger ran off but gave themselves up next day. The court was told that six weeks earlier Lewin had been released on bail by magistrates for joyriding offences. He had never taken a driving test and was banned from driving at the time for taking a car without consent.

Mr Justice Hidden said that joyriding was a totally false description. "The only joy when that activity takes place is a brief, selfish, wicked and arrogant joy in the mind of the person doing the act. The reality is a total opposite."

## Baby killer given life sentence

A MAN said to adore children was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for the murder of his girl friend's five-month-old son. Frederick Feathers, 20, buried his head in his hands as the jury at the Old Bailey returned a unanimous verdict.

Feathers, unemployed, of Parkgate, east London, denied murdering Harry Gurney on October 31 last year. He admitted manslaughter. He will begin his sentence in youth custody.

He told the court that he "snapped" when Harry would not stop crying. He shook him and threw him on the bed, where "his head came in contact with a wall". He said that he did not intend to harm the child.

Neil Taylor, QC, for the defence, said that Feathers adored children. He had persuaded Joanne Gurney, 19, not to have an abortion when she was pregnant with Harry.

Miss Gurney said outside court: "I am sticking by Fred. I know he didn't mean to do it."

## Russians wait for visa news

By Julia Llewellyn Smith

A RUSSIAN couple who set off on a 2,000-mile voyage in a leaking 24ft yacht will find out today whether they can stay another week in Britain to make their boat seaworthy for their planned trip to the West Indies and Australia.

Southampton immigration officials have given Alexander and Galina Grazhdankin, from Moscow, until noon today to leave Warrash, Hampshire, where they arrived after a nine-week voyage.

Frustration with food shortages, rising prices and travel restrictions led them to sell all they had and buy the yacht for 6,000 roubles.

"I would rather travel across the whole world and face a thousand hurricanes than deal with a Russian bureaucrat," Mr Grazhdankin said.



Hungry scavengers: two of the New Forest's 3,000 ponies hunt for food in rubbish bins at Emery Down

## New Forest wins national park status

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE New Forest, created in the eleventh century as the hunting preserve of Norman kings, is to be enlarged and given national park status to protect its landscape and the ancient grazing rights of the local people.

The expanded New Forest Heritage Area is an ecologically unique area of heath, pasture and woodland lying between Bournemouth and Southampton. It covers more than 200 square miles, stretching from the Salisbury district of Wiltshire in the north west to the Hampshire coast in the south east.

This area is almost 50 per cent larger than the forest defined by the medieval boundary. In a ceremony yesterday in the Verderers' Court in Lyndhurst, David Maclean, the countryside minister, said that the core of the forest had been well preserved but the new outlying areas needed better protection against inappropriate development.

The forest's new status will be similar to that created three years ago for the Norfolk Broads. It will not be called a national park but will have the same degree of legal protection.

Nicholas Soames, the junior agriculture minister, said the government recognised the vital importance of commoners' grazing as the most practical and cost-effective way of preventing overgrowth and preserving the diversity of flora and fauna. The forest has 500 practising commoners, who hold grazing rights, and 3,000 ponies, 1,500 cattle and several hundred sheep and pigs. The pigs are allowed to root for acorns under a right of pannage from late September to late November. But only about 250 commoners now turn their animals out every year.

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## Minister tells exam boards to drop TV shows from GCSE

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EXAMINING boards should drop television programmes and sub-standard texts from GCSE syllabuses before the qualification is brought into disrepute, Baroness Blatch, education minister, said yesterday.

She told the boards' annual conference in Belfast that the national curriculum should introduce pupils to their literary heritage. The inclusion of worthless material sent undesirable signals to teachers and pupils.

The Northern Examining Association attracted criticism earlier this year when it issued English syllabuses including optional study of *Neighbours*, *Allo 'Allo* and *Coronation Street*. Lady Blatch said she was "not impressed" by arguments that such areas of study were minor options among wider reading lists.

"I have no patience with the kind of cultural relativism — or perhaps the word should be nihilism — that holds that any

kind of text is grist to the educational mill, and choice is purely a subjective matter," she said.

"It should not even need to be argued that there are works of literature, as of course there are in music and the visual arts, which represent pinnacles of human achievement and touchstones of excellence for all time."

Pupils faced a demanding agenda between the ages of 14 and 16, she said. Every text under study took up time that could be spent studying something else and it was therefore worrying when GCSE syllabuses specified material that had little value.

Tighter ministerial control of the GCSE exams was a possibility when the final stage of the national curriculum was assessed, she said. John Patten, the education secretary, would become responsible for examining standards and could not delegate power to another body.

Lady Blatch said it was not acceptable for the schools inspectorate to declare that they had only limited confidence in the standards of GCSE.

"There would be little point in an examination system which gave a warm feeling of success to parents and pupils, but failed to command the confidence of employers and the general community," she said.

The Church of England could recommend grant-maintained status for many of its 5,000 schools, a report in *Church Times* says today (Ruth Gledhill writes).

In England about 5,000 maintained schools, which include voluntary-aided and controlled schools, are Anglican foundations.

The opting out of all or most Anglican schools could be expensive for the government because the state would assume responsibility for the 15 per cent of capital expenditure provided by churches and other voluntary bodies.

## Croatians welcomed at school

FOUR Croatian girls began school in Berkshire yesterday after being brought to Britain from a Bosnian refugee camp.

They were greeted by teachers and pupils and each allocated a "special friend" to help them through their first days at Hungerford primary school. Shirley Huxtable, the head teacher, said: "They seem to be quite at home and I'm sure they will settle in very well after all the excitement of the journey."

The girls, Ivana Sokcevic, 7, Jelena Bosnjakovic, 6, Kristina Podimbrzovic, 7, and Vanda Podimbrzovic, 6, are part of a 25-strong refugee group from Bosnia brought to Berkshire by two police constables last week after losing their homes and possessions in the bombing. The coach trip, by Steve Thorn and Gerry Parsons, was funded by local people.

The refugees are being housed at the disused Hungerford Hospital while they await the outcome of their applications for political asylum.



Helping hands: Ivana Sokcevic, left, and her new friend Hannah Rolfe

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Death car carried 10 people

A learner driver crashed a car carrying 10 people, causing the deaths of two who were travelling in the boot, a court was told yesterday.

Bridget Williams, 28, had packed three in the front, four in the back and three in the boot of a Volkswagen Scirocco hatchback after the group could not get a lift home from a nightclub. The car, which had no MOT certificate, overturned on the M4 near Swansea, throwing seven people out and killing Paul Todd and David Timmons.

Williams, of Dafen, near Llanelli, Dyfed, admitting causing death by reckless driving. She was given a suspended jail sentence by Swansea Crown Court and banned from driving for two years.

### Boy drowns

Edwyn Michaels, 5, drowned in the bath of his home in Wood Green, north London, after bolting the door behind him. Firemen were called after his father failed to break the door down.

### Hospital sale

East Sussex hospital, Hastings, which closed recently, hopes to raise £50,000 for its new £47 million replacement by auctioning its equipment. The 1,000 lots will range from X-ray machines to bedpans.

### Arson move

Rhondda Borough Council, Mid Glamorgan, has brought forward its plans to demolish ten blocks of flats after 12 arsonists and attacks on firemen at the Penrhys estate in the past two weeks.

### Escaper caught

Wayne Green, 22, charged with threatening to kill two policemen, was recaptured at his home in Long Eaton, Derbyshire. He escaped from outside court in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, two weeks ago.

### Britannia hit

The royal yacht *Britannia* suffered damage to its hull when it was hit by a navy tanker while tied up in dock at Portsmouth naval base.

### Blocked drain

Wessex Water has issued warning leaflets about clogging up sewers. Items found in drains include false teeth, a dead Doberman, mattresses and a lawnmower.

### Mellow yellow

June Hurst, of Flimwell, East Sussex, who has had 11 accidents in her Mini Metro this year, has repainted it yellow after reading that yellow cars have fewer accidents.

### Betting on life

An unnamed man aged 85 has bet £50 at odds of 500-1 that he will live to 100. The bet was taken by Ladbrokes in Christchurch, Dorset.

## University standards threatened

THE quality of many university courses will decline next year if a threatened squeeze on higher education funding coincides with further growth in student numbers, vice-chancellors said yesterday.

John Patten, the education secretary, told the vice-chancellors at their annual conference in Exeter to expect three more years of cost cutting to meet the government's expansion targets.

David Harrison, the vice-chancellors' chairman, said yesterday that some universities would be forced to take more students than they wanted to compensate for a loss of research income. Their only other option would be to sack staff.

Mr Harrison, vice-chancellor of Exeter University, said that those universities that benefited from a more selective allocation of research money might choose to expand more slowly. The rest would face stark choices. "Are they having to balance the books by taking more and more students, or do they start not taking take students because of concerns about quality and loss of staff posts?"

The divisions hinge on changes in the allocation of research funds, which are also causing disagreements in Whitehall. Mr Patten met William Waldegrave, the minister responsible for science, yesterday to raise objections to the transfer of almost £500 million a year to the new system. The switch would leave the new higher education funding councils responsible only for money dedicated to teaching.

## Viscountess killed by pills cocktail

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE wife of the chairman of Associated Newspapers, Viscountess Rothermere, accidentally killed herself with a cocktail of sleeping tablets.

Yesterday, Westminster coroner's court was told that behind her extrovert, happy exterior she was a deeply insecure person who was preoccupied with her health and could not live without sleeping tablets. More than 2,000 tablets in 75 containers were found in the villa in the south of France where she died.

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, the coroner, Paul Knapman, ruled out any suggestion of suicide. "There is no evidence that she was depressed, and certainly nothing to point towards suicide," he said.

A poisons expert told the inquest that the viscountess, aged 63, had twice the prescribed amount of the sleeping tablet Dalmane in her blood. She also had five times the normal level of the anti-histamine drug Atarax, which a New York doctor had prescribed to try to wean her from sleeping pills.

Investigations by the coroner's office revealed that Lady Rothermere saw at least four doctors in London alone. They prescribed pills for ailments



Rothermere: kept her doctors in the dark

including pancreatitis, colitis, knee trouble and thyroid problems.

One of her doctors, Douglas Rossdale, said: "If she did not get the answer she wanted from one doctor she would go to another. The doctors were left rather in the dark as to what was going on. We did try to make her see this and conform, but I do not think we were that successful."

"In March 1991 I tried to get her off Dalmane, but with her busy life and a lot of functions she could not take the withdrawal symptoms."

Lady Rothermere's maid, Balbina Focas, said that the viscountess had complained of a sore throat and had feared she was going down with pneumonia or bronchitis.



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## Pressure on Rabin to break impasse

## Israelis leave US peace talks empty-handed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI peace negotiators left Washington empty-handed yesterday after a month of largely fruitless talks with Arab delegates that failed to achieve any concrete progress.

Although Israeli officials put the best face on the outcome, no amount of gloss could conceal the fact that Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, is no nearer achieving peace in the region than he was in August.

Before the latest round of negotiations, the Israeli coalition government had set itself two main objectives. Their priority was to reach agreement with the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation on the holding of elections in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in April or May next year for a Palestinian leadership there.

The other main goal was to emerge from Washington with a joint declaration of principles signed by Israel and Syria, which could become the cornerstone of future deliberations and mark the first time

that the two warring neighbours had jointly produced and signed an agreement.

However, delegates to the talks reported almost no headway during the contacts between the Palestinians and Israelis, a setback some attribute to the frequent intervention of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leader Yasser Arafat, who kept tight control of the Palestinian negotiators from his headquarters in Tunis.

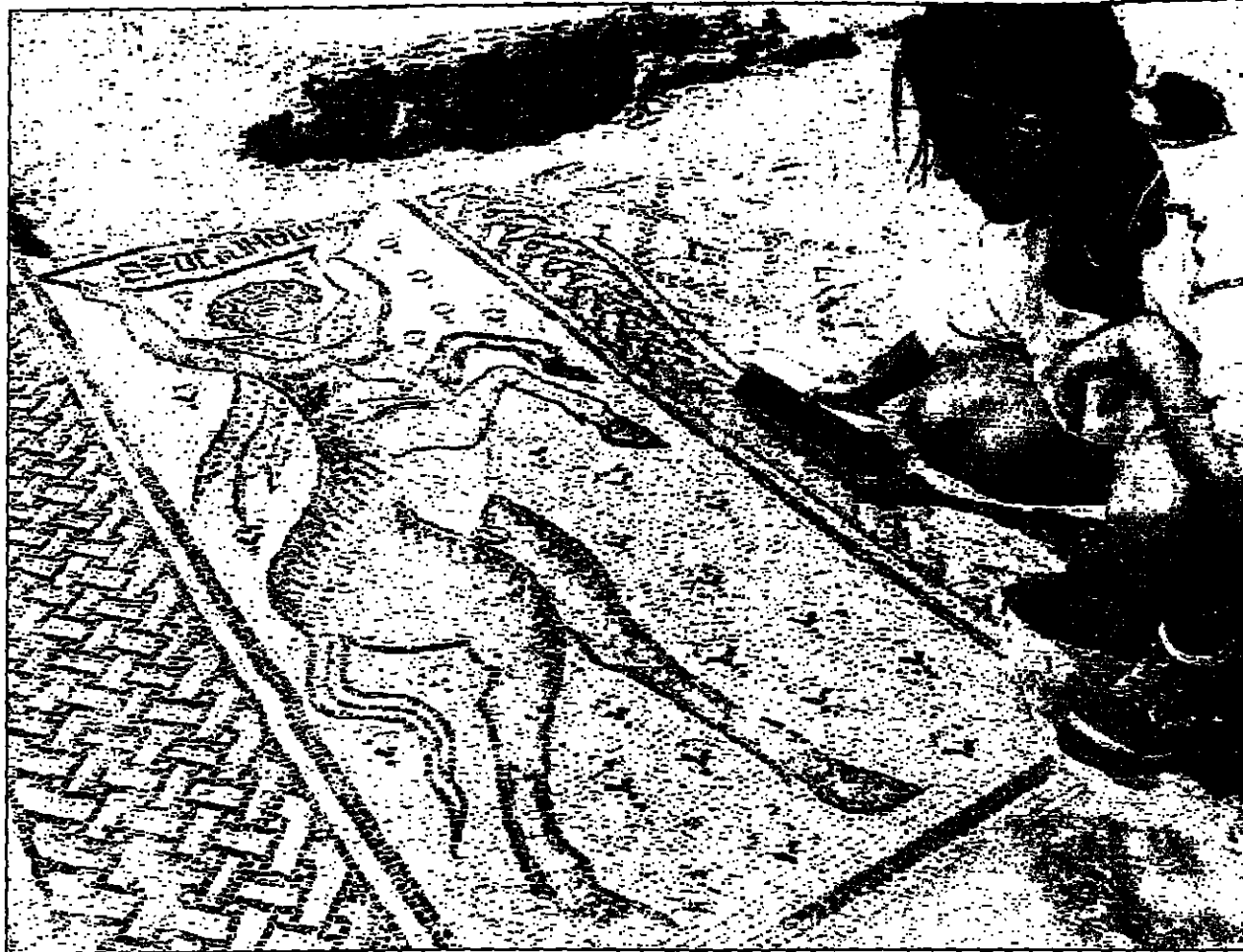
Although the Syrian position appeared to soften during the negotiations, Damascus has ruled out a joint declaration at this stage and the two sides remain deeply divided over the territories captured by Israel during the six-day war in 1967.

Reacting to remarks by Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, that his country was ready for "total peace" with Israel, Mr Rabin said that he would be satisfied only when President Assad of Syria was prepared to tell his people that real peace with

Israel meant open borders and diplomatic relations.

Although the Labour-led Israeli coalition government is not being blamed for the failure of any progress in Washington, unlike its hard-line Likud predecessor, there is growing concern that Mr Rabin will have to produce an initiative if he wants to unblock the diplomatic impasse and fulfil his election promises. Benjamin Netanyahu, the opposition Likud Knesset member who is the favourite to succeed the outgoing leader, Yitzhak Shamir, accused Labour of offering a "cascade of concessions" and receiving nothing in return.

● **Nicosia:** Iraqi opposition leaders met in Iraq for the first time yesterday in an effort to forge a united movement to topple President Saddam Hussein (Michael Theodorou writes). The gathering, in the Kurdish-controlled northern city of Saladin, included representatives of almost all Iraq's religious, ethnic and political groups.



History uncovered: a woman cleaning a mosaic of a centaur found at the ancient city of Sepphoris in northern Israel. It is one of a series of remarkably preserved mosaics — between 1,500 and 1,700 years old —

featuring gods and hunting scenes, discovered by archaeologists at what was Galilee's capital in Roman times. With the portrait of a beautiful woman found five years ago, dubbed the Mona Lisa, they make Sepphoris the richest

site of mosaics in Israel, according to Hebrew University archaeologists conducting the dig. They have also unearthed a colonnaded shopping street at the site, four miles from Nazareth. (AP)

## Heat is worst foe for Gulf patrol

Christopher Walker sweaters with sailors of HMS Chatham on sanctions duty in the Gulf

Two years after the invasion of Kuwait, British warships patrolling the Gulf to enforce sanctions against Iraq are still struggling to cope with their most potent enemy in the region — heat.

The most important thing is to keep the men from dehydrating. On deck they need 15 litres of water a day and getting that to them, especially if there is a threat of chemical attack, is a real problem," said Tony Hogg, captain of one of three Royal Navy vessels whose Armilla patrol is a reminder that, if necessary, UN resolutions will be backed by force.

On deck, where metal surfaces are painful to the touch at temperatures of 45°C, sailors in nuclear, biological and chemical suits loaded with missile-deflecting shells in de-bilitating pools of sweat. "It takes at least a month to adjust to temperatures like this and today is not exceptionally hot," said Lieutenant Mick Colyer, his brow streaming, despite the strip of shade above.

Below decks, air conditioning, which is the envy of American sailors working in the adjacent 24-strong battle fleet headed by the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* (whose engine room temperatures soar to 60°C) keeps vital weapons control systems stable. But science has yet to find a way to help those working outside.

To keep out the heat, reinforced by the sun's blinding reflection off the water, doors in and out of the 4,850-tonne frigates are more like air locks on a diving bell. Permanent medical attention is on hand for those overcome by heat.

The darkened operations room, lit only by the eerie light of radar screens scanning the skies over Iraq, is like a refrigerator compared with the furnace from where weapons are fired.

Because the *Chatham* is near Iraq, the crew work on "defence watch", involving six hours on, six hours off, around the clock and only five minutes from "action stations".

"We take life pretty seriously at the north end of the Gulf," Captain Hogg, a Falklands veteran, said. "All weapons are loaded with live ammunition and we are ready for anything. The geography helps focus the mind."

His cabin, complete with an original letter from Nelson framed on the wall and decanters from the *Victory*, is a reminder of the blend of tradition and technology that characterises the modern navy. Soldiers are still referred to derisively as "pongos" and, in keeping with the concept of the "loneliness of command", Captain Hogg, a gregarious man of 43, dines alone most nights.

"Brace-brace-brace" came the screamed command over the address system, preceded by a whistle blast as the crew of 237 were ordered to bend their knees and "grip something solid" in anticipation of an Iraqi Exocet attack simulated by the computer in an unswerving exercise.

Above our heads, came the rumble of the swivelling "goalkeeper" Gatling gun capable of firing 4,200 30mm rounds a minute at any incoming missile. "In this part of the globe, it gives a warm feeling to know it is there," Lieutenant Colyer said.

## Iran's new submarine sets sail

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first of three Kilo class Russian diesel-powered submarines sold to Iran has set sail for the Gulf from a naval base in Latvia. It was disclosed yesterday. Britain has warned Russia that the sale is "potentially destabilising".

The prospect of Iran becoming the first state in the Gulf to have submarines has raised fresh fears in the West over arms proliferation in the region. The 3,000-ton submarine is one of the most potent acquisitions in Iran's current arms build-up.

Iranian crews have been training at a Russian base in Latvia for about a year. Yesterday, some of the submarine trainee crews were filmed secretly by the BBC.

Russia and the four other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are supposedly in agreement over the danger of selling high-technology military equipment to countries like Iran. British officials have raised the issue of Russian sales to Iran, which have also included MiG29 and Su24 fighter aircraft. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We encourage all countries to follow a responsible policy on arms sales to the region."

Danis Turhas, Latvia's deputy defence minister, said yesterday: "At the same time as the Russians want to become part of Europe and be allies of the West, and claim common interest with the West and claim to be opposed to aggression, they are again providing terrorist weapons of unforgotten magnitude to the Iranians."

The Iranians already have three destroyers and five frigates, and with the effective elimination of Iraq's navy in the Gulf war, Tehran is aiming to become the dominant force in the Gulf, with the potential to threaten oil routes.

Russian officials have justified the deal by saying that it was agreed before the break-up of the Soviet Union. They said they were obliged to fulfil the terms of the contract. But the West suspects Russia is just desperate for foreign currency. Kilo submarines, armed with conventional torpedoes, have a crew of 45 and a maximum speed of 17 knots.

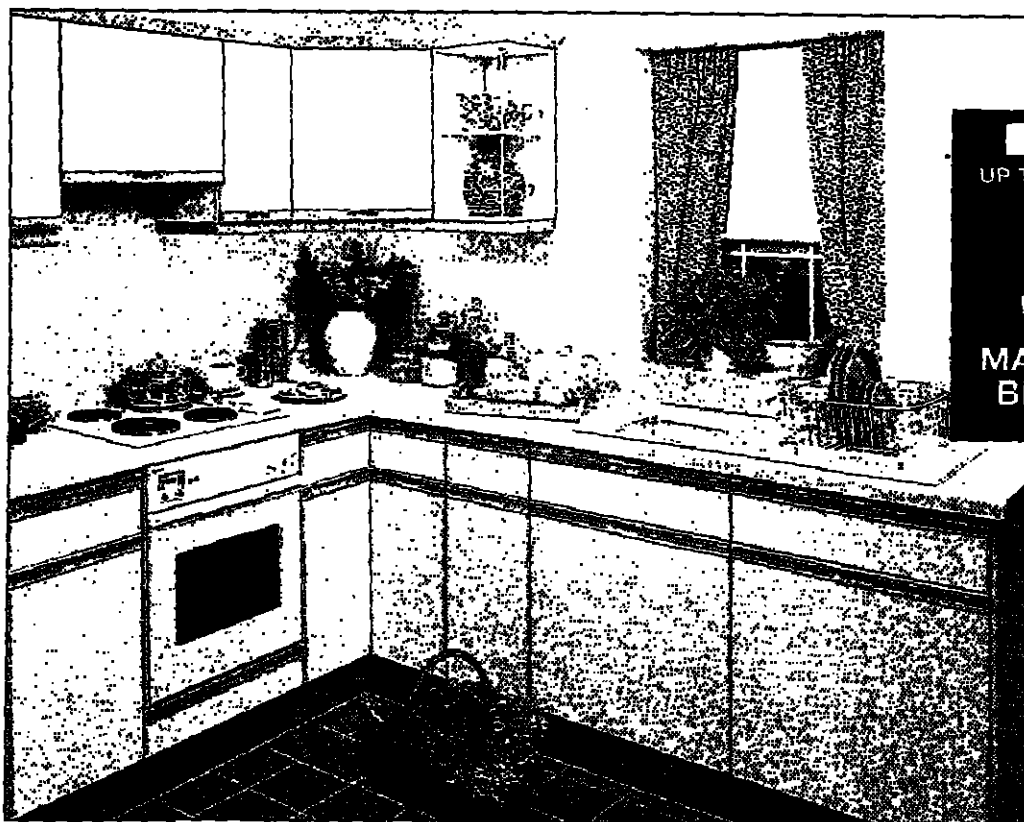
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# Iran-Contra scandal and economic woes return to hound Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush left the campaign trail yesterday to rest at Camp David and ponder how on earth, with just 90 days left, he can avoid becoming only the fifth incumbent this century to be voted out of the White House. Events yesterday amply demonstrated the mountainous task Mr Bush faces. Front-page stories in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today* challenged his claim to have been "out of the loop" during the Iran-Contra scandal. Evidence also emerged to suggest that despite the president's firm denials, his administration knowingly assisted Iraq's weapons programme before the Gulf war.

The Senate overrode Mr Bush's veto of legislation permitting unpaid leave at times of family need, giving the House an outside chance to embarrass the "family values" president by making this the first of his 32 vetoes to be overturned. Unemployment claims jumped 15,000 in a week. New figures showed anaemic economic growth in the April-June quarter with scant prospect of a pre-election upturn.

Mr Bush has begun portraying Mr Clinton as a deceitful, draft-dodging tax-and-spenders who would bring "misery to Main Street". But still he cannot improve his 43 per cent ceiling in the polls. State-by-state surveys are

bleaker still. He is not only being hammered in the Mid-western "battleground" states, but trails in such Republican bastions as Texas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. "We're ahead in so many states, we don't know which ones to target," said a top Clinton aide.

The \$20 billion (£11.7 billion) in tax relief Mr Bush promised small businesses on Wednesday brought to \$165 billion the breaks he has pledged. But the more largesse he dispenses, and the more promises he makes, the more he appears to feed public cynicism. In almost the same breath, Mr Bush berates Congress for rejecting a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

The confusion that would be caused by Ross Perot's re-entry could represent Mr Bush's best hope of becoming competitive, though equally it could lose him Texas and Florida. Mr Perot, it emerged yesterday, has had not one but two private meetings with James Baker, Mr Bush's campaign manager, this month. The Texas billionaire is negotiating an appearance early next week on CNN's *Larry King Live*, the nightly chat-show he has used for past announcements. Mr Perot's state campaign managers will meet him in Dallas soon and his re-entry looks almost certain, but his goals remain a

mystery. The Bush campaign is wooing his Texan supporters with letters.

Increasingly desperate, the Bush camp is also embarking on a huge, mainly negative advertising campaign, kicking off with its first commercial directly attacking Mr Clinton. Speeded-up film clips show the Arkansas governor merrily signing bills raising taxes on mobile homes, beer, groceries, cable television and other items beloved of Southern white blue-collar "bubbas". The commercial ends with the question: "Guess where he'll get the money from?"

A new Clinton commercial shows Mr Bush promising 30 million new jobs in 1988 and notes: "He's 29 million short". Clinton aides suggest they will counter any Republican advertisement attacking Mr Clinton's draft record with one challenging Mr Bush over the Iran-Contra scandal.

Anthony Howard, page 14



Words of advice: Amy Fisher, 18, listening to her lawyer, Eric Najburg, after she pleaded guilty in a Nassau court to assault over the shooting and wounding of the wife of Joseph Buttafuoco, her alleged lover. Fisher will be sentenced in December. Prosecutors said their attention was now focused on Mr Buttafuoco

## Boy's 'divorce' case stirs debate on family

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A COURT case in which a 12-year-old boy is seeking to "divorce" his parents opened in Florida yesterday, making legal history and adding fuel to the bitter political debate over family values in America. Gregory Kingsley is demanding a separation from his natural parents whom he accuses of neglect and abuse so that he can be adopted by the foster family he has lived with for almost a year.

His mother, Rachel Kingsley, denies abusing the boy and claims that poverty forced her to give him up, but only on the understanding that she could reclaim him later. She now wants her son back: she says he has been dazzled by his lavish life-style provided by his foster father, George Russ, a wealthy Florida lawyer. Gregory's natural father, Ralph Kingsley, a former alcoholic long separated from his wife, is not contesting the action and says he believes his son would be happier with his foster parents.

The judge in the case yesterday rejected a last-minute offer from Mrs Kingsley to move to Florida and undergo intensive family counselling for a one-year trial period in exchange

for custody of the child. The boy's lawyers dismissed the offer earlier as a "ploy".

Gregory has spent only seven months out of the past eight years with his mother and he contends in his action that Mrs Kingsley's history of cruelty and neglect makes her an unfit mother. His lawyers will also cite the fact that last month the man Mrs Kingsley lives with was charged with assault after he attacked her in front of her two other sons and broke her arm. Mrs Kingsley says she fell down stairs.

In a television documentary on the case broadcast last week, Gregory said: "I just want a place where I feel safe and that I am happy and that I know people will always be there for me." He has spent most of his life being shunted between his mother and father, various foster families and state institutions until last October, when Mr Russ found him in a centre for abused boys and took him into his own large family.

Conservative groups, and Mrs Kingsley's lawyers, say that if Gregory's action is successful, that effectively will enable other children to choose their parents.

## Polls show Clinton support peaked

Republican campaign tactics are beginning to narrow the Democratic lead, Robert Worcester writes

AMERICAN public support for Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, has peaked, according to recent polls. Three "snapshot" polls by Gallup for CNN/USA Today among 1,182 registered voters by NBC News/The Wall Street Journal among 506 people and by ABC News/The Washington Post among a sample of 637, suggest that President Bush's campaign tactics are beginning to bite.

This is confirmed by the Greenberg-Lake-Tarrance group "rolling poll" of 250 registered voters interviewed each night. Its four-day rolling average recently showed 43 per cent for Mr Bush and 57 per cent for Mr Clinton after reallocating "don't knows". The latest poll, based on fieldwork up to last Saturday, narrowed Mr Clinton's lead to 10 points.

The Greenberg poll early on ran a "split-ballot" test comparing the effect of asking a straight Bush versus Clinton question of half the sample and the presidential/vice-presidential choice of the other half. This test gave a 5 to 6 per cent advantage to the Democrats as a result of voters being put off by the reminder of Dan Quayle's presence on Mr Bush's ticket. The Greenberg poll concluded that it was the man in the White House who would count in people's minds at the ballot box, and that its Bush or Clinton polling method would give the most predictable result.

In the American federal system, one eye must be kept on the state-by-state results, as the results in each state determine the outcome. Poll in California, which has 54 electoral votes (270 are needed nationally to win), show that Mr Clinton still enjoys a wide lead. But in the swing states of Florida (25 electoral votes), Ohio (21), New Jersey (15) and Mr Quayle's home state of Indiana (12) the race is getting closer.

Florida was solidly in the

Republican camp four years ago, but it looks a close race there now. Both the poll by CBS/New York Times and the Florida Opinion Poll showed a 4 to 6 per cent Clinton lead. If Mr Bush loses Florida, he loses the election.

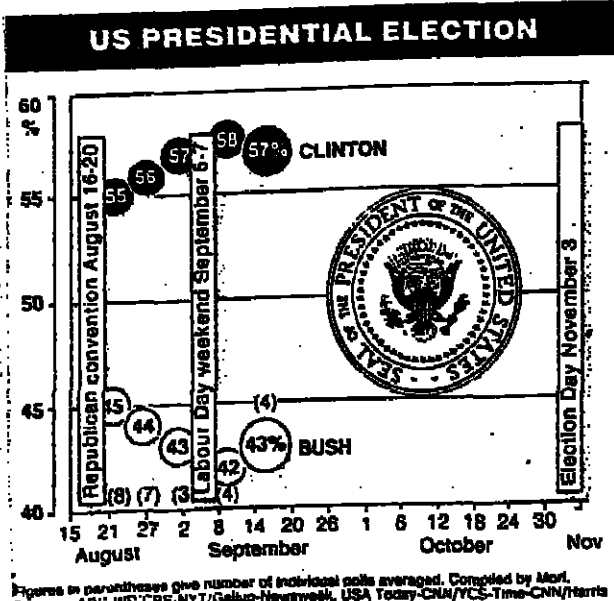
The Ohio result of a 1 per cent Clinton lead (CBS-NYT) will focus political attention on that state because, throughout August, polls showed a 10 per cent Clinton advantage. New Jersey, another populous state, was won by the Republicans in 1988 but at the moment still leans firmly to the Democrats.

The shocker for the vice-president is that the latest poll there, for the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, shows the two campaigns level-pegging. If Mr Quayle cannot deliver his own home state to the Republican ticket, which he represented in the Senate, he is a political dead loss to the Bush campaign. Texas (32 electoral votes) is also a closer race at the moment than the Republicans would like, especially with millionaire Ross Perot still on the ballot paper.

The effect of his presence on the ballot in some 20 states is still problematic. Survey tests indicate he could be a spoiler in close races, on balance hurting Mr Clinton slightly more than Mr Bush except in such old Confederate states as Virginia and Mississippi. In Texas, 30 per cent of those polled say they still prefer Mr Perot to either Mr Clinton or Mr Bush, who claims Texas as his home state. If Mr Perot's votes are discounted in Texas, it reverses a 49 per cent Bush 59 per cent Clinton cliffhanger to 51 per cent Bush 49 per cent Clinton. It's that close.

It is a safe bet that Texas, Florida and Ohio will see a lot of the presidential campaigners in the remaining weeks of the election.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori and a visiting professor of government at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



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# Delors puts treaty vote behind him and sets sights on Elysée



Delors has set up new group of supporters

THE Eurocrat may have eclipsed Messrs Saddam Hussein and Milosevic in the league of villainy this week, but the unpopularity of the species has not prevented the vision of a future President Delors from looming over France.

Four days after his Brussels job was saved by the votes of half a million fellow citizens, the of the European Commission in effect threw his hat into the race for a chance to take over from President Mitterrand yesterday. M Delors announced the creation of a group that will serve as his power base within the governing party.

M Mitterrand says that he is determined to stay for the final three years of his term, but his illness and the political upheaval of the referendum have unleashed mutiny and a bout

As speculation grows that President Mitterrand will retire soon, the battle for the succession swings into gear, writes Charles Bremner from Paris

of presidential ambition in the Socialist and Gaullist parties, the two main political formations. Speculation remains intense over the possibility that M Mitterrand, who has served for 11 years, could retire before the end of the year, ahead of parliamentary elections due next March.

Opinion polls conducted on Sunday indicated that M Delors, a former finance minister in M Mitterrand's first term, would beat all comers if a presidential election were held now. The figure was, as much as anything, an indication of France's weariness with

the hand of tired contenders who have been jostling for the top job for almost two decades. M Delors is heading for a challenge to Michel Rocard, the almost anointed candidate of the party that M Mitterrand founded led to power in 1981.

M Delors' group, called the "Witness Club", is to be inaugurated early next month, with the support of Martine Aubry, his daughter and employment minister, Bernard Kouchner, the popular humanitarian action minister, Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the

foreign trade minister, and Lionel Jospin, who served as Socialist leader and education minister. This month's fashionable loathing for arrogant Eurocrats has not afflicted M Delors, but sceptics doubt that, with his hot temper, he can sustain his popularity.

With the political cards reshuffled in the bitter referendum campaign, Pierre Bérégovoy, M Mitterrand's avuncular prime minister, is also reported to be preparing a run for the candidature. Although he has been criticised by lorry drivers, the unemployed and other protesting groups since he took office in the spring, M Bérégovoy has managed to project an image of a man of the people. As the author of France's economic austerity in the 1980s, he also has support of the business classes.

The referendum served to

reinforce the decay of the Socialists' base and speed their probable break-up into a liberal-Christian Democrat movement, which could rally around M Delors, and a social democrat and ecologist tendency that would back M Rocard. From being the biggest party in the 1980s, the Socialists are now supported by only one in five voters and are expected to lose heavily in the parliamentary elections.

Its old left wing is on the verge of attaching itself to Jean-Pierre Chevènement. The former defence minister led the dissident "no" campaign in the referendum and was threatened with expulsion yesterday. He disowned his fellow Socialists on Wednesday, saying that the government had abandoned the workers and the poor and taken the side of "rentiers who

grow rich in their sleep, stock-brokers and speculators".

On the other side, Jacques Chirac, head of the neo-Gaullist RPR party and front-runner as opposition candidate, is fighting to preserve his authority over a party that largely disobeyed his call for a "yes" vote on Maastricht. M Chirac, the mayor of Paris and a former prime minister, won a heavy vote of confidence at a party council on Wednesday night, but Philippe Séguin and Charles Fauriol, the two dissident barons who opposed Maastricht, refused to attend and their knives are out.

Power in future elections, it seems, will go to the party or the man who best bridges the gulf between the "two Frances" that the referendum differentiated so sharply.

Battle for franc, page 19



Guigou is sponsoring Delors' new fan club

## Envoys try to prevent 'ethnic cleansing'

### Bosnia and Croatia sign defence pact

BY TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance and Lord Owen, the peace envoys of the international community, are to visit the Serb city of Banja Luka in northern Bosnia today as diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end appear close to collapse.

In New York Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, signed a defence accord with Franjo Tudjman, his Croatian counterpart, while Serb leaders said that now was the time to take the future into their own hands.

Mr Vance, the United Nations envoy, and Lord Owen, the European Community's mediator, are to visit Banja Luka to try to forestall the "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims and Croats from the city. Banja Luka has long been a citadel of the most hardline of Bosnian Serb leaders. Jet fighters bequeathed by the Yugoslav Air Force to the Bosnian Serbs can fly bombing runs from Banja Luka secure now that the UN has put off a decision about a "no-fly zone" in Bosnia.

Tens of thousands of Muslims have been "ethnically cleansed" from villages and

small towns around Banja Luka but the majority of its Muslims — and some Croats — remain in their homes.

It has been announced from Banja Luka that the parliament of the self-proclaimed Serbian republics in Bosnia and the breakaway enclaves in Croatia were to call for a referendum on union. The union of the two Serb enclaves is the first step to what Serb politicians call a Union of Serbian Lands. Out of deference to those Montenegrins, who do not count themselves as Serbs, such a state is likely to retain the name of Yugoslavia.

On Wednesday, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said that if a Bosnian confederation of all three of the republic's nationalities did not materialise "then I think we should look at a Union of Serbian Lands".

The rump state of Yugoslavia was thrown out of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) based in Geneva yesterday after its expulsion from the UN General Assembly earlier in the week. The IAEA — the United

Nations' nuclear safety watchdog — passed a resolution at its annual general conference suspending Yugoslavia from the current meeting and demanding that it reapply for membership. But IAEA officials said the rump Yugoslavia could continue to work with the agency at a practical level while the membership issue was resolved.

● Nato offer: After a meeting in Brussels, Nato has offered to provide headquarters staff and expertise to guarantee effective command and control of the 6,000 additional troops being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina as UN food convoys.

Britain is to give another £7.5 million to victims of the war in former Yugoslavia. Baroness Chalker, the overseas development minister said yesterday. This will bring Britain's total humanitarian assistance to more than £35 million. The money will also pay for medical supplies worth £330,000 donated through the World Health Organisation, to be delivered when Lady Chalker visits Bosnia next week.

## French flood toll nears 80

FROM THIERRY CAYOL IN VAISON-LA-ROMAINE

WITH hopes of finding more survivors dimming, rescue officials yesterday feared that nearly 80 people died in this week's fierce storms and flash floods in southeast France.

"Technically there is no chance of finding anybody else alive," Yves Cavalier, head of the rescue operation in Vaison-la-Romaine, the worst affected town, said.

Some 33 people were killed and at least 43 are missing after rivers in the Ardèche, Drôme and Vaucluse regions burst their banks on Tuesday. The floods devastated towns and campsites, sucked up vehicles and hurled them over submerged bridges. Onlookers watched horrified as people trapped in cars and caravans waved helplessly.

One pedestrian crossing the old Roman bridge in Vaison when the floods struck clung to a road sign for three hours before being torn away. An exhausted mother fighting the current dropped her baby and watched him drown.

In Vaison alone, 21 people were killed and at least 30 houses and a campsite were destroyed. Telephone and electricity lines to 30,000 homes were gradually being restored yesterday. (Reuters)



Off the road: rescue workers at Vaison-la-Romaine yesterday inspecting the wreckage of a British-registered car left high and dry by Tuesday's flash floods

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pretoria refusing to budge

Johannesburg: The South African government has refused to give in to the African National Congress's demands for the release of disputed political prisoners without some agreement on an amnesty for crimes committed by state officials under apartheid (Michael Hamlyn writes).

Talks have continued over some two weeks between Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, and Roelf Meyer, the constitutional development minister, on the ANC's demands for substantial progress on the issue before Nelson Mandela, its president, can join President de Klerk for talks to discuss township violence.

### Admirals go

Washington: Two US Navy admirals resigned and a third is to be reassigned in the wake of a Pentagon report accusing them of "fumbling" a report into alleged sexual misconduct at a pilots' convention. (AFP)

### Ring smashed

Rome: Italian counter-intelligence, following a tip in *Rude Kravoy* (Red Cow), the Prague magazine, has smashed a Czechoslovak spy ring allegedly run in Italy by the former wife of an Italian diplomat.

### Collor loses

Rio de Janeiro: President Collor de Mello of Brazil, facing impeachment for corruption, has suffered a serious defeat. The Supreme court has rejected his appeal for a secret ballot in Congress on a petition to suspend him.

### Hostage freed

Tegucigalpa: Orlando Ordóñez, a former Honduran rebel, freed Luis Fishmann, the Costa Rican interior minister, here and flew to Mexico. Earlier, he had freed a police chief and a bishop he had held hostage. (AFP)

### Back in office

Hanoi: Vo Van Kiet, 69, Vietnam's reformist prime minister, the sole candidate, has been re-elected by the national assembly for a five-year term. (Reuters)

### War threat

Moscow: Georgia's state council threatened to start a "real war" if its ultimatum for the withdrawal by today of south Russian armed groups from the rebel region of Abkhazia is ignored. (Reuters)

### Husain home

Amman: Jordanians gave a thunderous welcome to King Hussein, 57, when he returned to a banner-bedecked capital after undergoing cancer surgery in America.

## Pressure increases on Gaidar

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

HARDLINERS in the Russian Supreme Soviet vowed yesterday that they would pursue a no-confidence motion against Yegor Gaidar, the acting prime minister, after failing to force a vote in the opening days of the new parliament.

Mr Gaidar, whose tough reforms have incurred the wrath of the industrial lobby, as well as nationalists claiming that he is selling out Russia to the West, came under heavy pressure yesterday to alter the course of his reforms.

The trouble fell for the second time in a week yesterday following a slump on Tuesday. Lithuania announced yesterday that it would replace the rouble with coupons due to fears that the Russian economy is about to be overwhelmed.

The popularity of Stalin is rising as hardships worsen, *Moskovskaya Pravda* said yesterday. Nearly half of those polled said they regarded Stalin as a great leader compared with 28 per cent last year. Two-thirds said that socialism was a superior system.

## Romanians hope for change after polls

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BUCHAREST

IN THE network of subterranean passages that criss-cross Bucharest's University Square pedlars hawk American cigarettes, cold drinks, snacks and newspapers. This is capitalism in embryonic form.

But as Romania lumbers towards a free-market economy it still has not shaken off the shackles of the communist past. The walkways into the metro station are strewn with litter, and are ill-lit — a legacy of the infrastructure under the Ceausescu dictatorship.

A year ago tear gas billowed across University Square, the bloody focus of the 1989 revolution, as police batted hundreds of miners from the flu valley. That fight is now long over but its reverberations still continue as Romania tries to rebuild its economy and repair its image.

Most of the communists hurry past the plethora of stalls. Western goods such as Camel cigarettes were luxury items under the Ceausescu regime. But now that they are available they are economically out of reach. With an average wage of 20,000 lei (less than £30) a month, and 2.2lb of meat costing 1,000 lei, it is hard to spare 400 lei for a bottle of soft drinks.

Revitalising the Romanian economy will be a long haul since President Iliescu's National Salvation Front government is seen by many, both here and in the West, as still exhibiting communist tendencies. The rioting miners, too, scared off Western investment.

However, expectations are high that after elections at the weekend life will improve. The opposition, in particular, is hoping that the front will be defeated and that the next president will be Emil Constantinescu, the candidate of the Democratic Convention.

In Bucharest at least, signs of growth are evident with shops and cafés opening up. Foreign car manufacturers have set up showrooms and both Pepsi and Coca-Cola have invested heavily. Perhaps the best sign that Romania is coming in from the cold is a Michael Jackson concert planned for October 1.

● Gypsy accord: Germany and Romania yesterday reached an agreement on the deportation of tens of thousands of asylum seekers, many of them gypsies, back to Romania. Up to August this year more than 57,000 Romanians sought refuge in Germany.

## Germans charge spymaster with treason

BY ANNE MCELVOY

Markus Wolf, East Germany's former spymaster, was charged yesterday with treason on 12 counts relating to his work over three decades at the head of one of the world's most successful intelligence networks.

The news that the federal authorities finally have pinned something on Herr Wolf two years after unification will be received with grudging enthusiasm by their security networks. On the one hand, there remains an appetite for revenge against the man who, in the admission of one senior officer of the Bundesnachricht-

endienst (Germany's external counter-espionage agency) reduced it and the domestic service, the Verfassungsschutz to "two large Swiss cheeses". On the other, there are fears that, once in the dock, Herr Wolf could embarrass the government by revealing hitherto undeclared successes.

One of the charges brought against Herr Wolf is that he ran Gunter Guillaume, the spy who rose to become the personal assistant of Willy Brandt while he was chancellor and whose disclosure caused Herr Brandt to fall from power in 1974. His agents were con-

sidered some of the best in the communist world and he also managed to convince many West Germans to spy for him, including legions of lonely secretaries in Bonn's ministries and party headquarters. He wooed them with a team of "Casanova agents" — who were planted as suitors to entangle them in espionage using seduction and blackmail.

A suave 69-year-old bon vivant with a liking for chess, fine wool suits and literary conversation, he grew up in a communist family — his father was the playwright Friedrich Wolf.

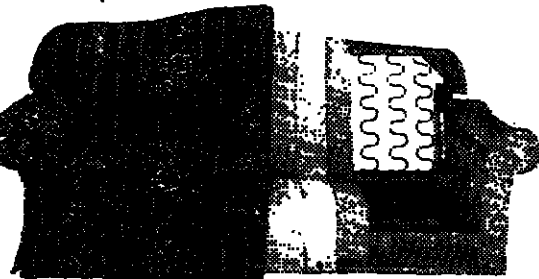
The family emigrated to Moscow during the Third Reich. He grew up speaking both German and Russian and identifying himself with both countries.

On the eve of unification, he fled to Moscow to avoid arrest. There he enjoyed the protection of Vladimir Kruchkov, head of the KGB. When Mr Kruchkov was arrested as the ringleader of the failed coup, Herr Wolf was left without support. The new masters in the Kremlin made it clear that they would no longer extend protective hospitality towards him and he gave himself up last September.

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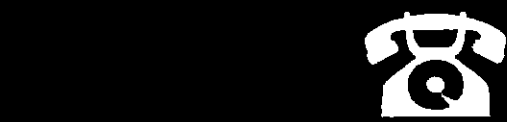
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# Tripped up at the worst time

The government has been shaken to its foundations, writes Peter Riddell

The political scene looked startlingly transformed yesterday. Instead of a self-confident prime minister loudly cheered by his own supporters crushing an ineffective leader of the opposition and his dispirited troops, the roles were reversed. John Major came out fighting for a pro-European stance, but he failed to convince many of his own backbenchers whose faces reflected their own doubts about the direction of government policy. By contrast, John Smith fulfilled all his party's hopes in a powerful Commons debut as Labour leader as he ridiculed the twists and turns of the past fortnight. And, in the background, there was the end of the David Mellor saga which has distracted the prime minister and sapped his authority at the worst possible time.

Mr Smith, of course, will seldom have an easier task than yesterday. Mr Major and Norman Lamont are having to eat volumes of words they have uttered over the past two years about the virtues of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) and the dire consequences of any alternative, the cut-and-run option of a floating pound as the Chancellor said only a few weeks ago. Yesterday's debate showed that the forced exit from the ERM cannot just be dismissed as a temporary blip. It has shaken the foundations of the government's economic strategy and foreign policy. Having to defend a reversal of policy and to lose a close friend from the cabinet within a few hours will leave its scars. The prime minister will not easily or quickly rebuild his power or authority.

Mr Major's difficulty is that his whole premiership has rested on his claims to heal the rifts of the later Thatcher years over the ERM and Europe. These divisions have now re-opened. Unlike the Thatcher era, the differences are being aired in the Cabinet itself, which as Michael Heseltine said this week, with evident feeling, is now no rubber stamp. By all accounts, there have been lively discussions at recent Cabinet meetings.

The majority of the Cabinet, led by Mr Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Clarke, believe that sterling's suspension from the ERM should only be temporary, preferably a few months, and that the bill ratifying the Maastricht treaty should not be abandoned. The minority, including Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and, to a lesser extent, Michael Portillo, believe the current opportunity should be used to establish a more detached position within the EC. Mr Lamont has acrobatically moved to make the best of life after the ERM.

In combative form yesterday Mr Major aligned himself with the majority of the Cabinet over Maastricht, to the evident displeasure of the more fervent anti-treaty Tories. His conditions, requiring a clarifi-

cation of the Danish attitude and implementation of specific EC criteria to limit the scope of Brussels intervention in the life of member states, can probably be achieved. But, in a careful balancing act, Mr Major took account of the views of the minority when he was vaguer about when sterling will return to the ERM and about what is needed to make the mechanism work in a way acceptable to Britain.

For all the warnings yesterday by Mr Major and Mr Lamont that life outside the ERM would not be easy, that risks would not be taken with inflation and that public spending would be kept under firm control, the government remains vulnerable to the charge that it has changed economic policy. There is a risk of faster growth in the short-to-medium term and a squeeze in 1994-95. Whatever happens, Mr Major faces divisions within his own party, which are likely to resurface at the party conference

The Mellor saga has distracted the prime minister and sapped his power and authority

early next month. Beyond that, his hope must be that the EC summit in Birmingham, in mid-October, and later in Edinburgh, in mid-December, will put the Community back on course with a new emphasis on a more decentralised EC, making possible the revival of a broadly acceptable version of the Maastricht bill this winter or spring.

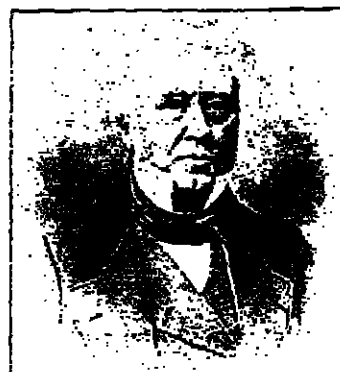
The danger is that Mr Major's attempt to find a middle way will fail, that he will be forced to take sides, against a group of his own backbenchers, and possibly some members of his own Cabinet. A nightmare parallel for him is the experience of Arthur Balfour, a similarly skilful tactician who took over 90 years ago as Tory leader, after another long-serving prime minister and who faced a deep split over free trade versus protection. His attempts to resolve the dispute led to the departure from his cabinet both of the leading free traders headed by the Duke of Devonshire and of the tariff reformers led by Joseph Chamberlain, which contributed to the collapse of his government in 1905. Mr Major does not face such serious divisions yet, but he will need all his skills at managing his cabinet over the bumpy few weeks ahead.

Mr Major and Mr Lamont's current position is similar to that of the Wilson government after the 1967 devaluation. Then also there was a lull for a few days immediately after the announcement when ministers pretended everything was all right before the seriousness of the setback became apparent.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead notes in his *A Life at the Centre*: "a spuriously good face was being put on a major national defeat. A long and desperate stand is not compatible with treating the subsequent retreat as being of little importance." The current government will also pay a high price, economically and politically, for the events of the past 10 days.

Bill Westwood praises the courage of David Mellor who went down fighting

# When the fun ran out



Macaulay: mocked hypocrisy

The English don't care for those who have "got on". The Welsh, Scots and Irish take a different view, as do most other nationalities. We therefore take a certain pleasure if our leaders are found out in peccadillo or error and we will believe things about them that we would never for a moment accept as the truth about our friends and neighbours.

Once again a fit of public morality led by the tabloid press has brought down a minister. David Mellor's resignation last night must make us ponder the exacting demands we make upon our leaders and ask ourselves whether it is not the readers and editors with their prurient interest in his private life who are really devaluing standards in public life.

Often our own failings are faintly dull and our excitements muted: theirs must be exotic — Chelsea strip, toes and whips. This enjoyment of the feet of clay contributes towards our fond assertion that they are no better than anyone else and certainly they are no better than us. As we read of King Edward VIII, John Profumo or, in the past few weeks, David Mellor, a sense of self-satisfaction glows in the English heart: I told you so.

Add this to what Macaulay called

"the British public in one of its periodical fits of morality" and we have an explosive mixture, needing only to be stirred and then ignited. The wielders of the spoon were, of course, the editors of the tabloid newspapers who seemed determined to bring Mr Mellor down. The more suspicious among us will recall that lurking among Mr Mellor's varied responsibilities was that for newspapers. He was waiting for David Calcutt's committee to advise him on the need for a privacy law, and he warned the editors that they were drinking in "the last chance" saloon. Naturally they were hell-bent on getting him to the bar and out into the street first. We cannot blame them. If they could destabilise Mr Mellor and his department, then his successor might well be reluctant to take on those aspects of press abuse which have so far escaped the Press Council and the Press Complaints Commission. Of course they stir the explosive mixture.

The backbenchers of the Conser-

vative Party assembled the kindling. The prime minister lit the match. We have given way to shoddy forces in our national life to envy and curiosity, to the doubtful moral attitude of a country without religion, and to vendetta. But what has become of our innate fairness which says "enough is enough"? Mr Mellor has been foolish, and has admitted as much. He enjoyed office. He believed in mixing fun

with power, but forgot that the 1960s are long gone. His track record in office was solid. His handling of the intricacies and rivalries leading up to the broad-casting bill showed a firm touch. In his recent besieged state he exhibited an admirable courage and self-assurance. The fact that he managed to hold his pugilistic instincts in check after so much provocation from the media should be counted for righteousness.

The real, indeed the only, question, which should have been asked about Mr Mellor is the one about his abilities and effectiveness as a minister and member of Cabinet. As a nation we employed him: we did not buy him.

His sexual failings are the concern of Mrs Mellor and their children alone. The wisdom of his holiday arrangements are the business of the prime minister and the Cabinet secretary. If Mrs Mellor feels that the one has destroyed their marriage, that is a tragedy — it always is. If Mr Major feels that the other has rendered Mr Mellor

unfit for office, that is a sadness — as the country is not over-stocked just now with men of talent. However, our prurient curiosity, which newspaper editors understand better than professional moralists, hardly qualifies us to say that Mr Mellor has let us down morally. Let himself down, yes. Let Mrs Mellor down, yes. But, let us down — really! Our record as thieves, our divorce rate, our illegitimacy figures, our level of crime, our delight in lies and gossip hardly qualify us as moral arbiters.

I would have hoped that Mr Mellor might have behaved differently as I would hope that everyone in the nation might behave differently. He was foolish. He said that he was sorry.

That he has had to resign because the public perception of him somehow or other might damage the party is dangerous. It is time that public relations principles ceased to govern our public life. I wish that Mr Major had stood fast. There is a Spanish proverb: "Take what you like," says God, "and pay for it." I think that Mr Mellor has paid more than enough.

The author is Bishop of Peterborough.

# A presidential pillow fight

America's real issues are being ignored, says Anthony Howard

The first US presidential election for which I had a ringside seat was that which brought John F. Kennedy to office over 30 years ago. There ought, I keep telling myself, to be affinities between that contest and the present one. Bill Clinton is, after all, barely older than Jack Kennedy was in 1960, like his forerunner he is trying to end a substantial period of Republican rule in the White House and, moreover, he can claim also to share with his predecessor a certain disdain for the more traditional tenets of American liberalism.

But somehow the analogy never quite works out. The contrasts, in fact, outweigh the similarities. Take the question of personality first. For all his charm, Governor Clinton remains a much less sharply defined politician than Senator Kennedy was at the equivalent stage of his career. And maybe the distinction in their respective titles — and political backgrounds — tells us something about that.

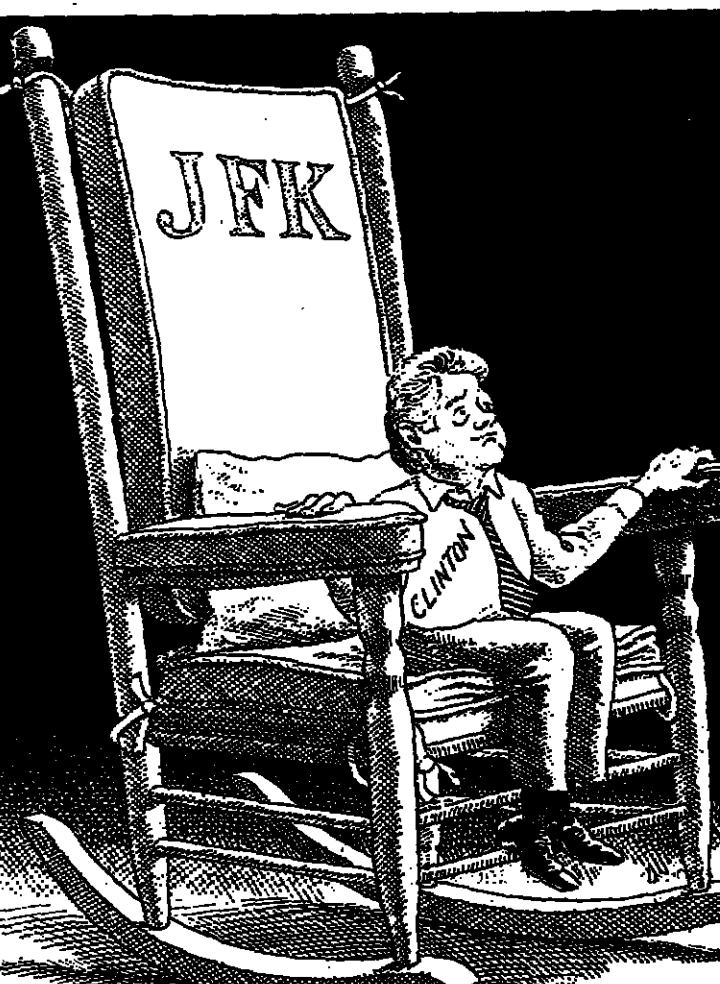
In 1960 it was generally accepted that the entire future of presidential politics would lie with members of the Senate (indeed, that year's election was fought between two senators on one side and two ex-senators on the other). The days when worthy men, like Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt, could vault straight from governors' mansions in New Jersey or New York straight into the White House had, we were assured, gone for good. A modern president required greater and wider experience of the world than that provided by the pork-barrel politics of the nation's various state houses.

Yet what has happened? Suddenly gubernatorial presidential candidates have bounded back into fashion again. Ronald Reagan came to the presidency — after a brief period as a private citizen — from the governorship of California: more than that, both Bill

Clinton and his immediate predecessor as Democratic standard-bearer, Michael Dukakis, secured their successive nominations from their party solely on the basis of their executive experience in charge of much smaller states. The same, for that matter, went for the last Democrat actually to occupy the White House, Jimmy Carter. His only credentials for gaining the nation's highest office rested on his record as a one-term governor of Georgia.

Why, then, did the pundits and constitutional prophets of 30 years ago get it so wrong? The answer, I suspect, provides one clue to the nature of the present campaign. What has taken place — and it has happened gradually and imperceptibly enough for it to have escaped being widely noticed — is the total professionalisation of the American presidential process. How to become president has become in effect a small cottage industry of its own.

If state governorships provide the best on-the-job training for aspiring presidential candidates, it is for a very good and practical reason. The individual states, after all, control the rulebooks for the four-yearly contest — when primaries should be held, what number of states should participate in a conclusive and crushing super Tuesday, the way in which convention delegates can be split, even the ethnic and gender representation that should be regarded as appropriate. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that state governors should have emerged as the new kings of



John Major

the castle. Bill Clinton, with his 12-year record as governor or Arkansas behind him, is as much a product of the new system as John Kennedy, with his 14-year legislative background on Capitol Hill, was of the old.

Yet, paradoxically, the new professional players are not the all-round performers their predecessors were. A state governor, for example, does not even feel required to sound particularly au fait with foreign policy and Mr Clinton himself does not claim to be any exception. Even on a live contemporary issue, such as the

creation of a North American Free Trade Agreement, he still simply cheerfully maintains that he has not yet had time to read the proposed treaty. Compare and contrast, as the exam papers say, the stand which Kennedy took against the French and in favour of the FLN on Algeria in the 1950s — for no better reason than he felt it to be part of his responsibilities to hold a view.

It is not all that different when it comes to domestic policies either. A good example here is provided by the question of health care. Every-one knows that the current ar-

rangements for medical provision in the United States are a mess. Yet it suits neither the president nor his challenger to spell out precise, costed proposals for reform — George Bush because he regards the whole subject as a minus for the Republicans anyway and Bill Clinton, for perhaps less creditable reason that he does not wish to alienate any part of the constituency that he hopes will ultimately bring him to the White House.

It is hard to resist the conclusion that in this election the voters are confronting the cost of "dipstick leadership". Neither presidential candidate will risk taking a position on anything without first having the pollsters test out the acceptability of what he is proposing to say. The inevitable result is a contest possessing all the muffled impact of a pillow fight — with an audience looking on that, if not actively bored, is largely indifferent.

What I still recall, above all from the 1960 election is the air of urgency and energy that Kennedy brought to his campaign — not always admittedly, by scrupulous means. There never was a "missile gap" and, like many others at the time, he almost certainly was inclined to over-estimate the Soviet economic and scientific challenge. But at least he made the voters feel that the decision they had to take was a momentous one.

Bill Clinton, by contrast, seems almost content to rest his case on the simple, obvious fact that he is not George Bush. As a tactic it may be just enough to do the trick for him on polling day. But what it will prove to have done for the vitality of the American electoral process is quite another question.



...and moreover  
ALAN COREN

I do believe that, in a reversal of our normal roles which at least one of us finds deeply unsettling, the world is trying to tell me something.

Not the whole world, mind: just the part that coughs. The part that gnaws its knuckle on public transport, gets glared at in restaurants, shouted at in shops, and sneered at in general; that finds itself being sharply reminded by boot-faced toastmasters that Her Majesty has not yet been toasted; that leaves its seat halfway through a film, stands out in the rain for a bit, then comes back in and asks its companion what's been happening so that everyone else can point out that some of them have come here to see the picture. And since, the more beleaguered it becomes, the more it sees itself as an oppressed minority, it does what all such victims do: it forms protest movements, lobby groups, and sends out to button-hole hacks in the name of justice.

Now, this part of the world is itself split into three distinct subdivisions: for, as with most dissidents, they have been forced by the need for common strength to join common cause, when each would prefer to hoe its own little row. Let us call these three the Popular Front for the Liberation of Cigarettes, the Ad Hoc Pipe Solidarity Collective, and the Cigar Volunteer Force, and then let us wonder why, by what cannot be coincidence, representatives of each wrote to me on Wednesday. Clearly, they are up to something: possibly, this being the season, they have held some

kind of covert national conference, where after frank and free discussions between delegates of the PFLC, the AHSC, and the CVF, they agreed that they were a broad church, and decided, *nam* con, that they should all now move forward as one, brothers, let us call it the Big Push, hang on brother chair, wouldn't Autumn Offensive sound better, excuse me, through the chair, some of us fancy Action Now, very well then, all agreed, it is the Big Autumn Offensive Action Push Now, next motion, I say we offer David Mellor a weekend in Benidorm, does he smoke, does it matter, well I say we write to Arnold Coren, is it, start small, work up, catch my drift?

The first letter I opened was an invitation to a free meal in the Rooftop Lounge of the Norfolk Hotel, Brighton. That there is no such thing as a free meal was instantly confirmed by the fact that the letter also had a photograph of Sir Rhodes Boyson on it, and when I read on to discover that Sir Rhodes would be addressing us on *Anti-Smoking and the Threat of Euro-Nannyism*, it occurred to me that there could well be nothing more expensive in this world than a meal in the Rooftop Lounge. Sir Rhodes, it seems, is going spare at the moment that post-Maastricht Britons will be free to light up only when and where Brussels dictates. Uncannily, I smell more than fog-smoke here, and instantly binned the blighter, sideways and all.

The second letter was more intriguing still. It came from The Pipesmokers' Council, and it

announced that the short-list for the 1993 Pipesmoker of the Year had been narrowed to two. The Chairman did not tell me who the other one was, he wished merely to know whether, if elected, I would be prepared to carry out the duties which went with this high office. As one of the things I would not be prepared to do was smoke a pipe (I bought one once, and it made my face hurt), the other contender would seem to be in with a chance. What I have not yet been able to fathom is how I even got on the long-list. Could the shag industry possibly be after anything?

Since acceptance might well mean travelling round the country with Rhodes Boyson, I binned this, too, and slit the third envelope. It held the first issue of a new magazine: fat, glossy, and titled *Cigar Aficionado*, it proved to be full of peculiarly pornographic pictures of stogies and bizarre articles concerning ash, smells, dogs that look good with cigars, restaurants which turn a blind eye if you chew the end off something and spit it on the carpet, and Jack Kennedy's Havana habits as revealed to Pierre Salinger. It wanted me to subscribe.

I find all this sudden collective activity, as I say, unsettling. Any day now, thugs in balalaavas will be axing down dogs' home doors and forcing beagles to smoke cheroots. So let me just say to such other agitpropsters as may be planning to wheedle me to their banners, don't even think about it. One false move, and I'll stop smoking for good.

# Keeping the wolf from the door

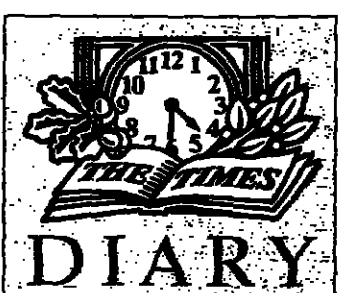
ONE of the most urgent tasks facing David Mellor, as he returned to the back benches last night, is to find alternative well paid employment. With his salary having overnight Mellor, one of the least wealthy members of the Cabinet, will not be able to survive as a mere backbencher.

With a wife, Judith, who does not work, two children, and only a modest house in Putney, one attraction of clinging so stubbornly to office was clearly the £63,041 government salary. Having gone into government at the early age of 31 he never had time, unlike many of his colleagues, to make a fortune in the private sector before taking high office.

Mellor, who was called to the Bar in 1972, is almost certainly contemplating a return to the legal profession, although he has not paid his annual £800 subscription to the Bar for several years. He used to practise at 6 Pump Court, Inner Temple, in chambers headed by Bernard Hargrove, who is now a judge. His name has long since been taken off the door plate. "I don't know if he is coming back," said one employee of the chambers, which specialises in common law, last night. "We must not say anything."

One senior lawyer said: "Of course he can go back to the bar. There is a convention that a barrister who becomes an MP, however rotten he may be, can become a QC."

However, Lord Williams, chairman of the Bar Council, was more generous and believes Mellor would be an asset to the profession. "There is an infinite variety of different people practising at the Bar. David Mellor is a man of



great ability and intelligence. If he wants to return to the Bar he would be very welcome. The Bar is a very tolerant and civilised place which will not pass judgment on him."

# Survival techniques

TOO late for David Mellor but possibly in time to save Norman Lamont and John Major. Lord McAlpine will next month publish his long-awaited handbook on how to survive in the cut-throat world of modern politics.

One of Lady Thatcher's closest advisers throughout the eighties, McAlpine takes as his model Machiavelli's *The Prince* to produce *The Servant*, a code of conduct for the modern politician. Dedicated to "the most magnificent Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven" and mostly written in the early 1980s, McAlpine's book is relevant to the government's current difficulties.

The root of political trouble, he writes, lies in the fact that "politicians are human but may not be have like other humans", a sentiment with which Mellor will readily identify. "The advice is very apposite to poor David Mellor," says McAlpine. "When I wrote it I had no idea he would be getting into such trouble."

The prime minister will also find McAlpine full of useful instruction. Every prince requires "the idea", McAlpine writes. It matters little

what the idea is: merely that it exists. "If the prince finds that after a time other men have frustrated his intention of carrying out his idea and so decided to change his idea then he must cease to be the prince." Let us hope the idea was not monetary union.

The wise prince makes only one judgement on his servants: "Did you succeed?" If the answer is no, the servant must be sacrificed and might instead turn his hand to gardening. "a wonderful occupation for retired politicians". Whether Mellor has green fingers is not known but Lamont almost certainly does not, given the non-appearance of the much-promised green shoots. Possibly he could learn.

"The most famous garden in Su Chou was created by a Chinese chancellor of the exchequer... while temporarily retired from politics," McAlpine writes. "It is too late for Mellor but I think Lamont could find the book very useful."

● Almost unnoticed, Neil Kinnock took his seat on the back benches for the first time in more than 13 years yesterday. Who did he choose to sit next to? Peter Mandelson, of course, the new MP for Hartlepool and architect of the red rose revolution which many Labour MPs say put presentation before policy and thus lost Labour the election. Kinnock obviously doesn't think so.

# Biter bit

IT is not only at home that David Mellor's political enemies are rejoicing. In Israel, where they are celebrating the Jewish New Year, one individual in particular is delighted. He is the lieutenant-colonel who was berated by Mellor, then a junior foreign office minister, over the state of the Palestinian refugee camps during a visit to the Gaza Strip in January 1988. The incident caused an enormous row

and Margaret Thatcher left her junior minister in no doubt as to her displeasure at his lack of judgement. The object of Mellor's wrath is still a serving member of the Israeli army and as such cannot be identified or go on the record. But an Israeli army spokesman said: "His English is not totally fluent and although he wasn't able to reply he knew he was being insulted. Since then he has been promoted to full colonel status — which, of course, had absolutely nothing to do with the Mellor incident."

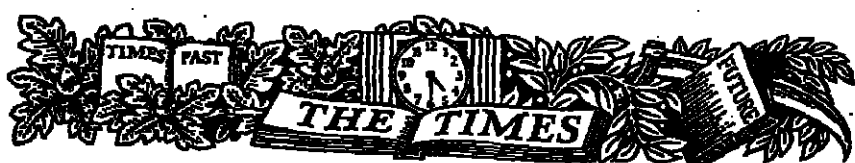
# Brum's chance

AMID all the excitement of yesterday John Major also announced that the Euro-summit will not be held in London next month after all, but in Birmingham. Secrecy surrounds the identity of whoever had already booked the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, Downing Street's first choice. Major, however, is not at all disappointed at the choice of Birmingham's International Convention Centre: it was built with an EC grant worth millions of Ecus.

● Who was "luckless Lucy", whom John Smith cited to such great effect during yesterday's Commons debate? She is Lucy Miller, a Downing Street political officer, and daughter of Sir Hal, the former Tory MP. Major announced in a letter to the Forestry Trade Union on April 3, a few days before the general election, "there is no intention to privatise the forestry commission".

To great Lucy Smith brandished the follow-up reply to the union on August 27. "You may be unaware that the commitment given by the Prime Minister on this matter was drafted incorrectly during the frenzied activity of the general election." Luckless Lucy wrote the letter.





## MELLOR AND MAJOR

The first announcement of David Mellor's resignation last night took just one line. This was the only part of the story whose scale matched its essentially modest import.

It does matter a little who holds the heritage ministry. It does matter a little that a junior member of the Cabinet should lose his colleagues' confidence over a tawdry series of affairs and free holidays. But the fate of Mr Mellor ought not, by any reasonable standards, to matter much.

Yesterday, however, as the House of Commons debated the economy, as the prime minister struggled to re-establish his lost authority throughout the country, the most-uttered words at Westminster were: "When will Mellor go?" The answer came just before six o'clock, which had the useful effect, in Tory eyes, of driving Mr Major's own indifferent performance in the economic debate from the top of the early evening broadcast news. This sense of relief was understandable. But it will not last. It only underlined the current sense of a government stumbling from one moment of instant gratification to another.

Mr Major's main line of defence yesterday was to link the failure of his own policies with the support that those policies had previously been given by the Opposition. The House was not a "debating chamber but an echo chamber," he sneered. He offered no new sense of government purpose beyond his more clearly expressed doubts about future exchange-rate mechanisms. He calmed the opposition of his own "Euro-sceptics" but did little to reassure the country on another day of disastrous job losses at the heart of British industry.

The debate was a brutal reminder that barely two years ago the prime minister was but a blank face on the cartoonist's sketchpad, an unknown quantity in the public scales. Before last week he had successfully shaded himself some political character, that of a man more amenable to Chancellor Kohl than Margaret Thatcher had been, that of a man more dabbleable on the jet-set summit circuit, that of an ordinary man serving ordinary voters in an extraordinary job.

If his policies had been a solid success, he would still be defined by them. But they have not been. His attempt to craft a personality to put before the country has been undone. The blank hole behind the square glasses

has returned — ready to be refilled with whatever political crayons lie at hand. That has been the reason why the fate of David Mellor has seemed so important this week. The prime minister's loyalty to his flawed personal friend has been as dogged as his devotion to his flawed economic course. That simple state of stubbornness has come to define him.

If a prime minister has more deep friendships around his Cabinet table than he has deeply rooted policies, he risks being judged by his choice of chums not by his achievements. Mr Mellor hardly helped Mr Major on Wednesday night by his doomed attempt to turn his fate as "junior minister" into a "who rules Britain?" parody of the Tory past. Newspaper editors certainly played their part in the exposure of the heritage secretary's private life. But it was presumptuous for Mr Mellor to elevate his plight into a clash over "who chooses the Cabinet?", the country's elected leader or the editor of *The Daily Mail*.

It was also extremely unhelpful to Mr Major, whose pride may still be his downfall. The Maastricht bill, the House was told, must be brought back for ratification sooner than expected, because he, John Major, had signed his name to it. A referendum, he said, could not be justified because the treaty won approval by his victory at the general election.

For the Labour Opposition in Parliament, still struggling to come to terms with its election defeat, yesterday was a sweet taste of things possibly to come. What a difference a change of leader makes! As soon as John Smith rose to his feet it was clear that the Conservative leader would never again be able to rely, as Mrs Thatcher under pressure always could, on the weak advocacy of the man across the aisle. Mr Smith deployed his forensic skills to batter Mr Major for lame excuses and absent apologies. He put his best points well, pointing out that to blame speculators for the run on the pound did nothing to explain why the pound was the most vulnerable currency in the first place.

The substance was less than the style. The Labour leader will never do mortal damage to the prime minister until he has a more coherent economic policy himself. But even lawyer's logic-chopping can cause harm to a prime minister who is still going backwards in his attempts to define who he really is.

## A ROLLS-ROYCE SOLUTION

Too many people have thought of too many reasons for not buying a Rolls-Royce. Apart from its unchallenged status as an official limousine, the Rolls marque now appeals more as a symbol of conspicuous luxury than because of the car's intrinsic qualities. These remain superb but are no longer considered technically the best in the world. New "Rollers" have begun to be shunned by wealthy landowners and captains of industry, appealing instead to flamboyant entrepreneurs and the newly rich.

No wonder the recession has hit the company badly. Sales this year will be less than half the peak of 3,300 reached in 1990 and little more than the annual average rate of production since 1904. Sales in Japan, which had become the fastest growing market as the stock market boomed there, have collapsed with share prices in Tokyo, demonstrating the new-found fragility of a customer base that was once the envy of rivals for its solidity. Competition has also grown, notably from the top models of Mercedes whose annual research and development budget exceeds the whole turnover of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Vickers, the engineering group that owns Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, has responded to the ensuing losses with the safety first mentality that is now the hallmark of British managers in the recessionary 1990s. Rather than chasing sales, it has cut costs to fit reduced circumstances, so that Rolls-Royce can make a profit on 1,400 cars a year, against 2,700 two years ago. It has more than halved the labour force, losing nearly 3,000 mostly highly-skilled jobs, but has greatly improved production methods.

Further ahead, this symbol of British

engineering quality is still in danger of becoming another symbol of its decline. The company has progressively retreated to a smaller and smaller niche in the market. That policy yielded high returns on capital for many years, but only, as in much of British industry, because the company did not invest enough capital in machinery, development and expansion. In the end, Rolls painted itself into a corner.

It is reduced to selling expensive dreams as much as functional motor cars. It must stretch aging model lines. It lacks the resources to build a new generation of products or to have the volume of sales needed to command component suppliers to spring to attention. Even among engineers, the "Rolls-Royce solution" is a by-word for an uneconomic quest for theoretical perfection that is no longer functional or acceptable.

Vickers knows that, once more normal conditions return, it must look for a bigger partner or even a new owner to take Rolls-Royce Motors into the next century. As the recession deepened, it abandoned talks with companies such as BMW and Toyota, which have the technical and financial resources to help Rolls catch up. That partner is unlikely to be British. It must however be acceptable to Rolls-Royce plc, the aero-engine group that owned the car firm until its predecessor went bust in 1971, and still owns the ultimate right to the priceless brand name.

Rolls-Royce will never compete with Ford. But if it is not to sink into the twilight as a mobile tourist attraction of Old England, it will need to study the market and produce cars that the wealthy will buy for their fitness for purpose, not for their name.

## OPEN CRICKET

The cricket season has closed but the files remain open on its most contentious issue. The inertia, indifference or blind panic that has gripped the game's authorities in dealing with the problem of players "altering the condition of the ball" — their name for cheating — seemed at last to have been relieved yesterday by some good, straightforward muscle. Surrey County Cricket Club was fined £1,000 for three reported instances of ball tampering.

Appearances, however, were deceptive. Nobody would identify the culprits or the methods used to gain an unfair advantage. The fine, imposed by a disciplinary panel of the Test and County Cricket Board, has been suspended for two years, thus acting as no more than a bond for good behaviour.

Such leniency contrasts with the draconian fines, totalling £8,000, imposed earlier this week on Allan Lamb, whose crime was not to have cheated but to have accused someone else of doing so. It also now transpires that Surrey were first reported by umpires as long ago as 1990, and that a further complaint was filed by two different umpires in 1991. On neither occasion was any punishment issued, nor was it deemed desirable to make the matter public.

Those who run our national summer sport are failing those for whom it is run. Cricket is a public game. It is played as an entertainment for those who pay to watch, and those whose enjoyment is merely in following it and dissecting its scores and issues.

These people, the lifeblood of the game, could be forgiven for thinking that cricket is in the hands of those who believe in secrecy above all.

What else can explain the silence of the International Cricket Council, which has refused to clarify and endorse the umpires' decision at Lord's last month when the ball was changed during the luncheon interval of a one-day international between England and Pakistan? They could not even make a simple statement saying whether the ball had been tampered with or not.

Instead, in the fashion so beloved of cricketing administrators, the ICC prevaricated. Writs from players who felt they had been slighted have begun to fly. A month later Pakistan's name remains unmentioned, the umpires' actions remain unmentioned and the public remains in ignorance.

The same attitude was displayed when the England selectors announced their party for the winter tour of India. They knew, of course, that the public would be outraged, rightly or wrongly, by the absence of David Gower. Yet Ted Dexter, chairman of the committee, immediately refused to discuss any player who had not been picked.

No wonder that the people who fill the stands at grounds around the country throughout the season are losing patience with cricket's administrators. Spectators feel they are being treated as if the game would be better off without them. They deserve more consideration than that.

## Arts salute for David Mellor

From Mr John Willan and others

Sir, In David Mellor we had a secretary of state committed to and with a deep understanding of the arts.

Could we not have allowed him to get on with his job?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN WILLAN  
(London Philharmonic Orchestra),  
MIKE ATTENBOROUGH  
(Royal Shakespeare Company),  
C. GILLINSON  
(London Symphony Orchestra),  
JEREMY ISAACS  
(Royal Opera House),  
PETER JONAS  
(English National Opera),  
N. KENYON  
(BBC Radio),  
NICHOLAS SNOWMAN  
(South Bank Centre),  
ALAN YENTOB  
(BBC Television),  
35 Doughty Street, WC1.  
September 24.

## Licensing laws

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, Any difference between this institute (report, August 25) and Alcohol Concern (letter, September 7) over alcohol licensing appears to be one of degree rather than kind. We would welcome a comprehensive review of licensing laws in England and Wales, but question whether licensing is an appropriate method of control.

It is by no means self-evident that a control which has its origins in the protection of public revenue would be found wholly satisfactory in combating the health and public order problems which justify licensing now. Starting with a clean sheet of paper would permit proper consideration of the impact of alternative methods of control of alcohol consumption on all aspects of society, not least the market economy.

All licences protect established producers against new competitors. A new liquor licence may depend on establishing that a "need" exists.

Licensing discriminates against the smaller would-be market entrant. It should therefore be sparingly used.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER MORGAN,  
Director General,  
Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1.

## Reviving high streets

From Mr Paul Davies

Sir, Walter Ellis ("Where the tough go shopping", *Life & Times*, September 21), consigns our high streets to the history books with hardly a glance at the effect of town-centre decline on our urban communities.

In the United States many "down-town" areas are unused and unsafe. The same is beginning to happen in this country, with increasingly derelict upper floors, empty retail space and crumbling public infrastructure.

If we give up on our high streets as victims of an inevitable shift in shopping habits, we risk paying a far greater price than lack of convenient shopping facilities. Empty public space breeds crime and fear of crime. Deserted high streets will lead to an increasing decline in the quality of urban life.

In over 800 US towns and cities economic development is being stimulated through public bodies, businesses, and local communities. Some 15,000 new main-street businesses have been established.

In Britain the Civic Trust is promoting a similar approach in places such as Tooting and Greenwich involving shopping, leisure and cultural facilities.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL DAVIES  
(Head, Regeneration Unit),  
Civic Trust,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.  
September 22.

## Controlling squirrels

From Mr John Bryant

Sir, In controlling any wild species which causes damage (letters, September 15, 21) there is a tendency to rely on killing to solve the problem.

There is no point in "controlling" grey squirrels if the cost of the control exceeds the cost of the damage caused by the squirrels. In the 1950s, taxpayers paid out for the killing of two million squirrels under a bounty scheme, with the result that there were more squirrels at the end of the exercise than there were at the beginning. Since then the government has rightly abandoned such schemes.

The grey squirrel is here to stay — indeed it is much admired by many people as an attractive addition to our wildlife. Efforts to provide attractive habitat for red squirrels should be enhanced and the killing of grey squirrels (if cost-effective) should be limited to the only time they cause real damage (summer months) and the only places they cause real economic damage (commercial timber forests).

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN BRYANT  
(Wildlife officer),  
League Against Cruel Sports,  
Sparling House,  
83-87 Union Street, SE1.  
September 21.

## Moving on from Tom Brown's days

From the Principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College

Sir, Boarding schools make ready targets for educational wit (leading article, September 15) and I would accept that not all boarding experiences have been, or indeed are, happy ones; on the other hand nor are all day school or even family experiences.

Boarding schools have changed greatly in the last 20 years and, given the range of parental choice in education today, will only succeed if they offer the stable, happy and stimulating environment that parents and children seek.

A boarding school provides children with the opportunity to concentrate on school-based activities without time-wasting travel. It offers the chance to make friends within a community which draws from all over the world. It develops an understanding of other races and religions, difficult to obtain in a smaller local community, and there is always something to do and someone with whom to do it. The care of teaching and house staff complements the role of the parents and the child benefits from the partnership.

As for the modern Cheltenham lady, I am delighted if she has the ability, confidence and determination of Baroness Thatcher (though, as you say, "no Cheltenham Lady she").

Yours sincerely,  
ENID CASTLE, Principal,  
The Cheltenham Ladies' College,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

From Miss Annie Lear

Sir, Whilst I sympathise with Nick Duffell's childhood experiences (report, September 15) I can reassure him about the "repressive" boarding schools he describes. Since starting boarding at the age of seven I have lived among my friends, built up strong relationships with teachers and been encouraged to co-operate and to flourish. I have enjoyed gradually being presented with the challenge of decision-making and responsibilities which have cultivated my confidence and provided valuable experience. My living at school has heightened the mutual appreciation and support within my family.

Now at 17, I am excited by the future and far from being "ill-equipped to face the real world". Isn't it about time it was recognised just how much boarding schools have progressed and improved since *Tom Brown's School days*?

Yours faithfully,  
ANNIE LEAR  
(Head of School),  
Roedean, Brighton, East Sussex.

## Economic priorities

From the Chairman of the London Churches Group

Sir, The financial anarchy of the past few weeks has left political parties divided and the reputation of economic experts dented. However, the principal victims continue to be the millions who are without secure jobs, adequate income and decent homes.

Rather than seeking scapegoats in the exchange-rate mechanism, the Bundesbank or currency speculators, this is a moment to rethink our priorities.

High on the agenda of the London Churches Group, an ecumenical body in which members of all the nation's leading churches are represented, are the issues of poverty, community care, refugees and homelessness.

What better place to begin than with our housing policy? With homelessness at record levels and with hundreds of thousands of building workers unemployed, it is surely right, economically as well as morally, to begin getting our own economic house in order by embarking on a programme of increasing investment in affordable housing for rent.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER W. SUTCLIFFE,  
Chairman,  
The London Churches Group,  
The City Temple,  
Holborn Viaduct, EC1.  
September 23.

From Ms Heather Mccauley

Sir, The reduction in the number of households accepted as homeless (report, September 11) does not mean

## Overture for beginners

From the Director of the Ernest Read Music Association

Sir, The ambitious project in musical education, involving 16 orchestras and 40,000 primary school children described by Richard Morrison (September 15) is indeed a promising and imaginative initiative, a valuable widening of the work already being done by several orchestras with Arts Council and other funding.

Whether the "very survival of palaces of culture, like the Festival Hall", really depends upon such projects, is more doubtful. For one thing, outreach work is expensive and is impossible to carry out without substantial grants and/or sponsorship, so is likely to remain limited.

For another, the essential business of concert halls is to attract the public to listen to music; and one of the most powerful incentives to adults to go to concerts is to have learnt the habit and enjoyed it in their youth.

But the word "enjoy" is the important one. One of the most en-

From Miss Brontë Flecker

Sir, Why send your sons and daughters to boarding school? I can only speak for myself. Marlborough College has saturated me with a wealth of opportunities to cultivate my interests, whether they be on a hockey pitch or in the Astronomy Society, as well as providing me with a challenging working atmosphere.

Yours faithfully,  
BRONTË FLECKER (Senior prefect),  
Marlborough College,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire.

From Mr E. G. F. Johnson

Sir, Some 25 years ago, when my wife and I were being shown round a prep school, the headmaster proudly pointed out to us a boy aged 6½.

When we expressed surprise that such a young boy should be a boarder, it was explained to us that he had three elder brothers at the school and the parents wished him to be there for his oldest brother's last term so that the family could achieve a record by being represented at the school by a maximum, a major, a minor and a minimus.

Yours faithfully,  
E. G. F. JOHNSON,  
17 Alders Road, Reigate, Surrey.

From Mrs Clare Hampson

Sir, Nick Duffell and his Boarding School Survivors support group should hear the constant pleading to be allowed to board that goes on in our house. Since the age of eight, when they start in the main school, we have allowed them to stay the odd night, rising to four nights a week, at which point they have become full boarders.

The two of our four children who have been allowed "to be who they really are". Additionally, as boarders they have learnt that they are not the only pebbles on the beach much sooner than their non-boarding counterparts — a great asset in this day and age.

Yours faithfully,  
CLARE HAMPSON,  
Leigh Lodge, Leigh, Worcestershire.

From Mr John Garfield

Sir, My children are amazed by their father's ability to quote from Shakespeare's sonnets. The punishment of reciting a sonnet correctly while in a morning cold bath was physically and mentally stimulating, and at least one splendid legacy of St Caeke's (your leading article), or Bradford.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN GARFIELD,  
Keyhaven, Haddenham, Wey,  
Chilworth, Southampton.

that the number of families waiting to be permanently housed is declining.

Figures collected by the London Research Centre show that at the end of March there were 42,506 families (more than 100,000 individuals) in London waiting to be moved into permanent homes. The figure has risen steadily since 1986, when it was 14,049.

The average length of stay in temporary accommodation is 47 weeks. More than a third of these families will have to wait for over a year before the local council can provide permanent housing.

Yours faithfully,  
HEATHER MCCAULEY (Principal Information Officer, Bed and Breakfast Information Exchange),  
London Research Centre,  
81 Black Prince Road, SE1.

From the Chairman of the Automobile Association

Sir, The Chancellor is expected to announce a reduction to the planned roads programme when he makes his autumn Budget statement (report, September 16). To do so would be folly.

Situated as we are on the edge of Europe, we must invest in new and improved roads to ensure efficient access to key markets.

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH CARR-ELLISON,  
Chairman,  
The Automobile Association,  
Farnham House,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Business letters, page 23

couraging aspects of our own experience with the Ernest Read Concerts for Children has been that the choirs contributing to each concert carry back their enthusiasm to their own schools and revitalise class singing throughout them. Similarly an annual song competition provides a major stimulus to classroom composing projects, when part of the prize is a performance in the Festival Hall.

One other aspect of our own experience is that this work has now been continuing for nearly 50 years without any public funding or private sponsorship.

Yours faithfully,  
NOEL LONG,  
Director,  
Ernest Read Music Association,  
9 Cotford Avenue,  
New Malden, Surrey,  
September 16.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a day-time telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

## 'Parsimony' over judges' pensions

From Lord Ackner

Sir, The near-total rejection of the July recommendations by the top salary review body (TSRB) is but one barrel of a gun about to be fired at the judges by government.

The other impending and more lethal discharge is to be found in the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill which will be again debated in the House of Lords at the end of next month.

The bill's proposal to increase the minimum period of judicial service from 15 years to 20 years for entitlement to a full pension (one half of the judicial salary) represents a 7.5 per cent reduction in pay. To this must be added the further proposal that the current guaranteed minimum pension of 25 per cent of salary be abolished.

An independent consultant actuary has estimated that the combined effect of these proposals represents a reduction in salary of between 10 and 15 per cent. This does not take into account the further prejudicial proposal to base the pension, not as previously on the salary in payment on the day of retirement, but on the average of the salary received over the year immediately before retirement.

Taking the top estimate of 15 per cent, the effect on the pay of senior judges appointed a few months hence, after the bill is enacted and is in force, will be a 4 per cent increase in the salary paid prior to April 1 (approximately 20 per cent of the figure recommended by the TSRB), a 15 per cent decrease following the implementation of the bill's provisions, and thus a net decrease of 11 per cent.

Furthermore, the bill's provisions as to the pensions payable on incapacity through illness or death during service, and the treatment of judges' widows and orphans are so parsimonious that they would not be acceptable in any modern pension scheme for top executives.

Yours faithfully,  
ACKNER,  
House of Lords,  
September 23.

## Trial by jury

From the Chairman of the Magistrates' Association

Sir, In his letter (September 17) on the attitude of this association to the possible abolition of jury trial in some minor theft cases, Mr Stanley Best makes general remarks about magistrates courts with which I take issue. The days of "police courts" are long gone: there is no "rubber stamping" of the decisions of police officers — or of anyone else. Magistrates' training is now much more comprehensive than ever.

When deciding how to vote on October 16 on the motion relating to trial by jury, members attending our annual general meeting will no doubt consider Mr Best's counsel in the light of their knowledge and experience.

Yours etc.,  
JOYCE ROSE,  
Chairman of Council,  
The Magistrates' Association,  
28 Fitzroy Square, W1.

From Lady Badenoch

Sir, I retired in July this year after serving for 23 years as a lay magistrate on the Oxford city bench.

I do not recognise from the descriptions given by Mr Stanley Best any lay magistrates of my acquaintance or any experience I have had of police methods.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE BADENOCH,  
21 Hartley Court,  
84 Woodstock Road, Oxford.

## Recycled material

From Mrs Cherry Hamson

Sir, Your report, "Green hints misleading shoppers" (September 16), says more about the general lack of environmental education in this country than it does about the companies alleged to be "conning" them with misleading information.

The example given, "Aluminium foil is recyclable", is entirely true and carries no implication about the product being made from recycled material. The issues are quite separate, as new marks which will be going on to packaging when the EC draft directive on packaging waste becomes law, will make clear.

Yours faithfully,  
CHERRY HAMSON,  
Aluminium Foil Recycling Campaign,  
38 and 42 High Street,  
Bidford-on-Avon, Warwickshire,  
September 16.

## Backyard bounders

From Mr Russell Hawkes

Sir, A new breed of landowner has emerged in the last few years — I call them Nimby-Whistlers (not in my backyard while I still live 'ere). They are people who get planning permission for a development in their garden just before they sell.

I will never be one of them: my garden is too small.

Yours faithfully,  
RUSSELL HAWKES,  
The Priory, Common Hill,  
Saffron Walden, Essex.







## OBITUARIES

## SIR EDWARD NICHOLS

Sir Edward Nichols, TD, Town Clerk of the City of London, 1954-74, died on September 19 aged 80. He was born on September 27, 1911.

EDWARD Nichols was in the thick of ferment over the building plans for the Barbican development by the Corporation of London. The Barbican redevelopment was having an explosive effect on the Court of Common Council. Nichols, by then Town Clerk of the City of London, found himself in the midst of a welter of warring factions and dispute as to whether the Barbican should be built this way or that way or indeed at all.

He himself (quite a progressive and reformist in his own quiet way) was a supporter of the idea. He lent a steady but diplomatic influence towards its achievement which



even so took many years — too many years, some would think. Nichols was among them: the continued wrangling in committee disappointed him. Phlegmatically never complaining, he continued to give tacit advice but never lost his dedication to a new concept which he believed was in the best interests not only of the Corporation of London but of the City itself.

His reforming zeal included the amalgamation of committees at Guildhall, the streamlining of Corporation administration, especially by means of computer, the realignment of departmental responsibilities and the stimulation of increased regard and respect for conservation. On

conservation, however, he was an undoubted realist, once saying that "a living city" (the Corporation's proud boast) "cannot be forever looking over its shoulder". Although quite a catalyst, he remained nevertheless a very private person, conscientious, cool and collected, especially under stress.

He enjoyed philately, especially dealing with Chinese stamps, and put together a notable collection. He found solace from the hurly-burly of professional life in the open air. He was a keen gardener and a regular visitor to the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley near his home. He was a devotee of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and found further relaxation with his piano on which he frequently featured pre-war musical comedies.

Edward Henry Nichols was born in Mansfield and educated at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he played soccer for Cambridge University and for Cambridge Town. He was articled to the Town Clerk of Mansfield and on admission to the Roll in 1936 was appointed assistant solicitor to the Corporation of Derby. His tenure of office was interrupted by war service, four years of which were spent in service with the Royal Artillery abroad — in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, North Africa, and Italy. He was mentioned in dispatches and ended his war service with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

On returning to civilian life he took up his appointment as Deputy Town Clerk of Derby and for one year (1948-49) he was Deputy Town Clerk of Leicester. In 1949 he returned to Derby as Town Clerk and Clerk of the Peace of that city. From 1954 until his retirement in 1974 he was Town Clerk of the City of London.

Nichols was knighted in 1972. He was the recipient of many foreign orders, including that of the Chevalier of the Order of the North Star of Sweden. He was a member of the City of London Livery Club. In 1941, after a four weeks' engagement because the war was on and he was about to go overseas, he married Gwendolyn Elgar who, with their son Howard, survives him.

## GENERAL JAMES VAN FLEET

James Alward Van Fleet, a US Army General who led his troops ashore on D-Day and later commanded the American forces in Korea, died on his ranch at Polk City, Florida, on September 23 aged 100. He was born in Coytesville, New Jersey, on March 19, 1892.

PRESIDENT Harry Truman called him "the greatest general we have ever had" when Van Fleet retired in 1953. "I sent him to Greece," said Truman, "and he won the war. I sent him to Korea and he won the war." In all, during the course of an Army career that lasted 42 years, James Van Fleet served in four wars and was always on the winning side.

Van Fleet was born to be a soldier. His grandfather, Joshua, fought with the New York militia against the British in the Revolutionary War. His father served with the Union forces during the Civil War. It was a natural course of events that he should go to the US military academy at West Point in 1911, joining a class that included Omar Bradley and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

It became known as "the class the stars fell on". Sixty-one cadets out of the 164 who graduated in 1915 ultimately became generals, but Van Fleet was hardly an outstanding student. He was placed 92nd in the class, having spent a good deal of time perfecting his skills as a football player.

When America entered the second world war, Van Fleet was sent to France in command of a machinegun battalion with the rank of captain. He took part in the fierce infantry fighting during the Meuse-Argonne offensive in October 1918 and was wounded in action a few days before the war ended.

The years between the wars were frustrating for the action-loving Van Fleet. His postings included command of cadets and chief football coach at the University of Florida; no presage there of what was to come. But with the arrival of the second world war he found himself stationed in England as colonel in command of the 8th Infantry Regiment, waiting for the invasion of Normandy.

Van Fleet was 52 by this time, and his rank might have been higher but for the fact that General George C. Marshall, the Army Chief of Staff, confused him with another officer with a similar name who was known to be a heavy drinker.

Four times he was recommended for promotion to brigadier-general, and each time he was turned down, while former classmates Eisenhower and Bradley added bunches of stars to their epaulettes. In fact, Van Fleet was a lifelong teetotaler.

The confusion meant that, despite his age, Van Fleet was at the head of his troops when they stormed ashore on Omaha Beach. He managed the operation with such skill that the combat team's objectives were gained with minimum loss of life, and he went on to lead the regiment through fierce fighting to capture Cherbourg and Brest. Twice wound-



ed, he continued to move his troops with such verve that in seven months he rose from regimental commander to corps commander. At last, he had his general's star.

Van Fleet commanded the 3rd US Army Corps during its drive to cross the Rhine at the bridge at Remagen and the subsequent thrust through Germany. He narrowly escaped death during the Battle of the Bulge when a shell struck the building in which he had taken cover near the front line: he was not one to issue orders from far behind his men.

After the war Van Fleet was named Deputy Chief of Staff of the US European Command in Frankfurt, and then, in 1950, with the mounting communist threat in Greece, he was sent to Athens as director of the Joint United States Military Advisory and Planning Group. There, his direct manner and complete lack of diplomatic subtlety cut through the political chaos, and he directed operations against the rebel guerrillas so effectively that, much to the relief of his president, the crisis ended within a few months.

In 1951 Van Fleet was given command of the 8th Army in Korea, succeeding General Matthew Ridgway after the latter had replaced the deposed General Douglas MacArthur as supreme commander. He led large-scale military operations that twice threw back commu-

nist attacks, and later complained bitterly to Congress that peace negotiations had prevented him from winning the war.

General Van Fleet, said one junior officer during the campaign, "is a foot-slogger. He's a mud soldier and a foxhole soldier."

Throughout his career, Van Fleet had a reputation for caring for and respecting the men under his command. "I never want to command by fear," he once said. "I never want to be accused of abuse of power. Power is given to you to exercise in a kindly way."

Nine years after his retirement, during which he became a successful businessman, Van Fleet was recalled to active duty by President Kennedy to serve as a consultant to the Defence Department in the early days of the Vietnam War. There, he caused a certain amount of consternation by making a public demand for the dismissal of Adlai Stevenson, America's chief delegate to the United Nations, for his failure to support the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

Social niceties were not Van Fleet's forte. He preferred hunting and fishing, and his aim with a rifle was so deadly that he chose to hunt deer with a pistol. It was, he said, more sportsmanlike.

His only son, an Air Force pilot, was killed during the Korean War, and his wife died in 1984 at the age of 90.

## APPRECIATIONS

## Canon David Diamond

LOOKING back to the days of leaving college and ordination, it does not seem 20 years ago that "Farver" Diamond (obituary, September 14) and the people of St Paul's welcomed me to Deptford.

I was asked at his funeral: "You must have had a splendid training as a priest here?" But I do not recall any formal training, just endless work and an unending stream of people. This in itself was a tribute to the Rector of Deptford, for there were very few people when he arrived 23 years before, and then so busy that seven priests were fully occupied.

Deptford had come alive with the advent of the new priest at St Paul's, though David Diamond always attributed this to God alone. There followed a great revival of community spirit and Church life. There were great Masses, street parties, pensioners' outings, the youth club, scouts, the Miller Hospital, the Deptford Festival. And the people of Deptford came — and so did the Queen, Princess Margaret, the archbishop, the bishop, the Peary Queen, Miss Deptford, the Town Crier, the faithful, the curious, the wanting-to-believe. They became one in worship and a community centred on the Church.

Such was my training! Long



hours, a meal in the Brown Bear in the absence of a clergy-house housekeeper to cook for us, activities, administration, fund-raising, delivering leaflets, and a crowded house with kids off the street, callers of all kinds at all hours. The telephone would ring past midnight with a request for "Farver" to pick up some kids who had missed the last bus after a disco in Lewisham, and another day would begin.

The incarnational identification of God's priest at work amongst God's people and becoming the instrument that God uses to bring the unbelieving unto Himself: that is what I learnt. It was supremely exemplified in the sacrificial life of "Farver" David Diamond.

Fr Paul Williamson

## Prof Martin Harrison

BY THE time I renewed acquaintance with Martin Harrison (obituary, September 16) in 1987, he was enthusiastically engaged on the excavation of Amorium, in a primitive Anatolian village at the height of summer. Yet he had already suffered the stroke which handicapped him physically and in his power of speech.

The enthusiasm, combined with professional worth and an exceptional gift for friendship, won through.

Amorium is firmly established as a major excavation and starting to restore prestige to British archaeology in Turkey.

For Martin, most of humanity was divided into the "very kind" and others; above



all it will be for his own strikingly true kindness that dozens of friends in Turkey will chiefly remember him.

T. L. A. Daunt  
Ambassador to Turkey  
1986-92

## Henry Calvert

YOUR otherwise generous appreciation of Henry Calvert (obituary, August 29) may perhaps have made him sound a rather distant, even formidable, figure towards those of lesser attainments.

To one who had the privilege of knowing him only during his retirement, however, nothing could have been further from the truth. Henry was an assiduous attendee at branch reunions of the Old Bridlingtonian Club, of which he was latterly the oldest

member. He enjoyed meeting the newer generation of Bridlingtonians and was delighted last year to be photographed at the Cambridge branch luncheon with the youngest member, Polly Redman.

Henry wore his scholarship lightly, and younger Old Bridlingtonians enjoyed his company as much as he enjoyed theirs. He will be sorely missed far beyond the little world of academe, and not least here in Yorkshire.

M. J. A. Mortimore

## SEPT 25 ON THIS DAY 1947

Violent clashes between Muslims and Hindus for over a year had brought India close to civil war. Originally intended for 1948, the dominion's independence was speeded up with the replacement of the viceroy, Lord Wavell, by Lord Mountbatten, and on August 15, 1947 the two states of India and Pakistan came into being.

## FOUR MILLIONS ON THE MOVE

The mass migration and exchange of populations in the Punjab — Muslims moving west to Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs trekking east into India — have now reached a scale unprecedented in history. Accurate statistics are impossible to come by, but it is reasonable to estimate that not fewer than 4,000,000 people are now on the move both ways. What this means in terms of human misery and hardship can neither be imagined nor described.

Within the past few weeks conditions over a wide area of northern India, including the whole of the Indus valley and part of the plain of the Ganges, have deteriorated steadily. It is no exaggeration to say that throughout the North-West Frontier Province, in West Punjab, East Punjab and the western part of the United Provinces the minority communities live in a state of insecurity often amounting to panic. Further afield, in the eastern parts of the United Provinces, and to a lesser extent in Bihar and Bengal, much tension and friction prevail.

In Delhi itself order has been restored after the grave riots of a fortnight ago, in which perhaps 2,000 people were killed and tens of thousands driven into refugee camps. Even so, communal feelings run high, and there appears no prospect whatsoever of the Muslims being able to return to their lawful advoca-

tions. But Delhi, disturbed and tense as it is, does not reflect the deplorable conditions prevailing in the surrounding countryside, nor is it anything like as grim as the state of a score of cities bleeding from Punjab. Whatever official statements may say of attempts to create confidence and restore peace, it is plain that these do not exist over vast areas inhabited by perhaps 100,000,000 people, whose mutual enmities are so deep that they are at the roots of a potential fifth column consisting of persons of opposing faiths.

The extent and intensity of this vast conflict, amounting to an unending civil war, are such that it is difficult for any observer to form a conspectus or assess all its implications. But three questions may be posed and the answers to them are anybody's guess. First, has mob frenzy reached its zenith, or will fanaticism continue to exact its toll of human lives on an increasing scale? Secondly, has the mass migration represented by scores of convoys containing anything up to 50,000 souls and stretching for perhaps 50 miles along highways, and by dozens of evasive trains, exhausted itself or will many millions more wish to move to areas inhabited by their co-religionists within the coming weeks? Thirdly, will the tremendous dislocation of economic life and agricultural production result in widespread famine, possibly on the scale of the Bengal famine of 1943 in which more than 1,000,000 persons died?

On the first question of mob frenzy, it must be recorded that there is no indication that the blood lust of either side is satisfied. On the contrary, and in spite of isolated reports of returning confidence, attacks by each community on defenceless villages inhabited by the opposite community continue to occur. What is worse is the persistence of organized attacks on road convoys of refugees and the increasing ambushes of trains carrying refugees, in spite of the presence of strong military escorts.

## V. N. PILLAI

V. N. Pillai, retired United Nations consultant in criminology, died in Nottingham on September 2 aged 83. He was born in Ceylon on September 13, 1908.

VALLIPURAM Pillai, better known as "V. N.", was regarded by many, but particularly by the Japanese, as Asia's most outstanding criminologist. Former head of the United Nations Asia & Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime & the Treatment of Offenders (Unafei) in Tokyo, he was instrumental in establishing the institute, firstly as senior adviser in 1962 for two years and then as director for six years until 1970. The institute, the only United Nations institute of its kind, was established in Tokyo as a joint project between the UN and the Japanese government.

Earlier in his career Pillai was head of the prisons in Ceylon, as Sri Lanka was known until 1972. The late 1950s and early 1960s were a time of great political upheaval. In 1959 he detained the assassin of the prime minister, Solomon Bandaranaike, and some years later was responsible for detaining suspects in Sri Lanka's first attempted

coup against Mrs Bandaranaike, who had succeeded her husband as leader of the dominant party in the ruling coalition and as prime minister. Pillai also established one of the world's first open prison camps in Kandy.

During his time in Tokyo he travelled extensively in the Asia Pacific region and Europe conducting seminars in virtually every Asian country, even in South Vietnam during the war. Visiting experts who worked with him at Unafei included the late Baroness Barbara Wootton (deputy speaker of the House of Lords, and an expert on penal reform), Sir Arthur Peterson, former chairman of the Prison Commission for England and Wales, Myrl Alexander, director, United States Federal Bureau of Prisons, Sir John Barry, Justice of the Supreme Court, Australia, Professor Israel Drapkin of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. An honorary doctorate in criminology was conferred on him by the University of Manila in 1968.

He enjoyed his years in Tokyo. Six feet tall, he towered over most Japanese, yet perfected the art of bowing, and appreciated the Japanese cultural niceties whether dealing



with justice ministry officials or royalty. After Tokyo he continued to serve at the UN secretariat in New York. His appointments in the early 1970s included visiting professorships at the University of Illinois and in Canberra. After retirement, he was invited as a consultant to Venezuela, India and Japan.

He lived a full life dedicated to his work and family. Born in Jaffna, a Tamil, he attended the Royal College in Colombo. After obtaining his BA (Hons) London degree at the University of Ceylon, he qualified as a lawyer and advocate and then joined the prisons department

of Ceylon in 1936. He visited various penal institutions in the United Kingdom in the late 1930s. He was in England when war was declared in 1939, and often recalled driving out of London during the blackout on the A4 to Oxford and on to Liverpool to board one of the last convoys ships to Colombo.

He was born into a Hindu family, his father being awarded the Imperial Service Order by the Queen in Ceylon for services to local government. He became a Christian in his student days, a faith that was unshakable. During his years as an international civil servant he missed his family. After retirement he made up for this, spending extended holidays with his children. In more recent years his eyesight deteriorated but he bore this disability with great courage, still grateful that he could continue his avid reading habit, keeping up to date with all aspects of current international affairs.

He arrived in England a few days before his death to spend a holiday with his youngest son and his family in Nottingham. He is survived by his two sons and by his wife Kamala whom he married in 1938.

## DONALD GUTHRIE

Dr Donald Guthrie, Bible scholar, died on September 8 aged 76. He was born in Ipswich on February 21, 1916.

DONALD Guthrie was one of a rare variety, a New Testament scholar who won recognition from the academic world while standing outside the university system. He was wholeheartedly committed to the Bible and to the London Bible College, which he served for 43 years as, successively, lecturer, senior lecturer, vice-principal and president. He joined the college's lecturing staff before completing his first degree, and never left it.

Guthrie's name is synonymous with his magisterial *New Testament Introduction*, originally published in three volumes from 1961 onwards. The fourth edition appeared in 1990, revised with Guthrie's acknowledged meticulous scholarship. Other works included *New Testament Theology* (1981), and, for the popular market, *Jesus: the Messiah and the Apostles*. It was, however, primarily through his academic books and a steady stream of articles in learned journals that he was best known. His contribution to New Testament scholarship

was recognised this year by the award of the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the Council for National Academic Awards.

Guthrie was an evangelical Christian and found no difficulty in bringing together scholarship and evangelical convictions. His was a scholarly voice in the 1960s and 1970s when evangelical scholarship was rare and scepticism appeared to hold sway. That the situation today is so far removed to a more conservative view owes much to him.

In his writing, Guthrie was fair to those with whom he disagreed, gave their views courteous and serious attention to build up and built rather than demolished. Vincent Taylor, reviewing *New Testament Introduction*, described it as "scholarly, competent, well-informed, judiciously expressed, restrained in statement". Marcus Ward noted "the absence of that sarcasm which so often characterises the critic". That was noted also by his students. He treated them seriously, shared with them generously and, on occasion, entertained them hilariously. Guthrie leaves his wife, Mary, and four sons and two daughters.

## Church news

## Clergy appointments

The Ven Gerald Brown, Chaplain, St Edmund's, Oslo, Norway and Archdeacon of Scandinavia: to be Chaplain, St Peter and St Sigfrid's, Stockholm, Sweden, and to continue as Archdeacon of Scandinavia (Europe).

The Rev Michael Anderson, Vicar, Hordle and Rural Dean of Lyndhurst: to be also an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral (Winchester).

The Rev Dennis Barradough, Vicar, Kirkburton: to be also Rural Dean of Kirkburton (Wakefield).

The Rev Michael Broadbent, Rector, Middleham with Cusdale and East Witton, and Rural Dean of Wensley: to be Priest-in-Charge, St Andrew's, Bows and Rokeby w Riggall (Ripon).

The Rev Len Cox: permission to officiate diocese Canterbury.

The Rev Michael Freeman, Curate, All Saints w. St John, Clifton (Bristol): to be Team Vicar, All Saints, Elland (Wakefield).

The Rev Andrew Horton, Priest-in-Charge, St Michael, Wandsworth Common: to be Vicar, St Michael, Wandsworth Common (Southwark).

The Rev Canon Anthony Hulbert,

Vicar, Bedford, St Andrew: to be Vicar, Leighton Buzzard with Egginton, Hockliffe and Billington (St Albans).

The Rev Stephen Jarrett, Vicar, St John's, Fishponds (Bristol): to be Vicar, St Matthew, Chapel Allerton (Ripon).

The Rev Robert Jones, Vicar, Dudley, St Francis: to be Team Rector, Worcester, St Barnabas w. Tollymore, Christ Church (Worcester).

The Rev Hugh Lawrence: to be Vicar, St Botolph, Knottingly (Wakefield).

The Rev Rosalind MacRae, Chaplain to St Austell Hospital and Mount Edgumbe Hospice: to be Chaplain to the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust (Triske, City, Falmouth and West Cornwall) (Truro).

The Rev Canon Richard Orchard, Residential Canon of Derby Cathedral: to be an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral on his licensing as Priest-in-Charge, Baslow w. Curbar and Stoney Middleton (Derby).

The Rev Stephen Outwaite, Rector, Miltons: to be Master and Vicar, St-Cross Hospital w. St Faith, Winchester (Winchester).

The Rev David Page, Priest-in-Charge, St Barnabas, Clapham Common: to be Vicar, St Barnabas, Clapham Common (Southwark).

The Rev Derek Palmer, Rector, the Dronfield w. Holmesfield Team Ministry: to be also an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral (Derby).

The Rev Christopher Parsons: permission to officiate diocese Canterbury.

The Rev Paul Perkin, Priest-in-Charge, St Mark, Battersea Rise (Southwark).

The Rev Terence Pinner, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and Priest-in-Charge, Designate, Old Alresford and Bighton (Winchester): to be also an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Colin Roberts, Rector, All Saints, Riverside, Bulawayo, Matabeleland: to be Vicar, St John, Earlsfield (Southwark).

The Rev Barry Rodwell, Bradwell Area Religious Education Adviser: to be Vicar, Great Burstead (Chelmsford).

The Rev Frederick Ross, Vicar, Melbourne and Rural Dean of

Melbourne: to be also an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral.

The Rev John Russell, Priest-in-Charge, St Luke, South Banersea: to be Vicar, St Luke, South Banersea (Southwark).

The Rev John Shepherd, Priest-in-Charge, St Peter and St Paul, Micham: to be Vicar, St Peter and St Paul, Micham (Southwark).

The Rev Nigel Stone, Priest-in-Charge, St Paul, Brixton: to be Vicar of St Paul (Southwark).

The Rev Robert Teare, Rector, Holy Trinity and St John, Walsfield: to be also an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral (Winchester).

The Rev David Urquhart, Team Vicar, Drypool (York): to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Coventry (Coventry).

The Rev Peter Vargson, Curate, Yateley: to be Vicar, Bursledon (Winchester).

The Rev John Wells: to be Vicar, Hanging Heaton, Batley (Wakefield).

The Rev Ronald Whittingham, Vicar, Silverdale and Alesgers Bank (Lichfield): to be Vicar, Honley w. Brocksholes w. Brocksholes St. Mary (Wakefield).

## University news

Oxford Prize  
Renwick Vickers dermatology prize 1992: Lianne Ann Lib Khoo, of Trinity College.

London  
Professor Gerald Dworkin, Herchel Smith professor of intellectual property law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, has been appointed Director of the Centre of European Law at King's College London and Herbert Smith professor of European law, London University.

Royal Veterinary College  
Appointments  
Dr Peter Chantler, professor of anatomy and neurobiology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, to the Chair of Veterinary Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Dr Stephen May, senior lecturer in equine studies at Liverpool University, to the Chair of Equine Medicine and Surgery.

Sheffield  
Michael Palin, the actor and author, has received the honorary degree of doctor of letters from Professor Gareth Roberts, vice-chancellor. Mr Palin was born in the city and is patron of the

Lycium theatre trust. The honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on Arnold Aspinall, formerly head of the department of archaeology at Bradford University.

Bristol  
Dr Stephen Harris, of the department of zoology, has been appointed as the first holder of the Duvetown chair in environmental sciences. The chair has been established in memory of Lord Duvetown, who died in February.

Dr Stephen John Hogan, SERC advanced fellow, Mathematical Institute, Oxford, has been appointed professor in mathematics in the faculty of engineering.

Dr Charles Martindale, reader in Latin and comparative literature, has been appointed to the chair in Latin.

Bath  
Honorary degrees are to be conferred upon the following:

Professor Peter Scott, professor of education at Leeds University and formerly editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, doctor of laws; and Mr Peter Shaffer, author and critic, doctor of letters.



# Kohl denies plan to build 'mini-EC' of five nations

By Ian Murray in Bonn and Our Foreign Staff

HELMUT Kohl, the German chancellor, moved swiftly yesterday to deny reports that he and President Mitterrand had agreed in Paris on Tuesday to form a five-nation "mini-Europe" inside the European Community to get round Danish and British reluctance to forge ahead with European union. His denial came as the Bundesbank continued its expensive intervention to steady the franc.

The recent strains on the European Monetary System (EMS) have also convinced backbenchers of all main parties in Germany that the Bundestag must have a final say on the introduction of a common currency. That amounts to an opt-out clause for Germany, although members of the parliament's European affairs committee were careful to say yesterday that that process would not constitute "a second ratification" for the Maastricht treaty.

Relative calm returned to the financial markets yesterday as speculation eased their pressure on the franc in the face of the combined offensive by the French and German governments. The French and German central banks were forced to buy further large quantities of francs to prop up the currency, but the determination of the two countries to save the EMS deterred traders from continuing with the hammering that they had inflicted on the currency on Wednesday.

Traders said they believed that the Bank of France was close to running out of money to support the franc, but they were cautious about staging a big sell-off, fearing that the Bundesbank would put up a strong defence. The franc closed the day well above its "floor" in the exchange-rate mechanism. A spokesman for Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, said that the government was growing increasingly confident that the worst was over, but they would have to wait until the weekend to see if they had truly beaten the currency speculators.

Concern about the stability of any future common monetary system has prompted Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, to sug-

gest a "mini-EMS" of countries with strong currencies. Writing in this week's edition of the Swiss newspaper, *Weltwoche*, he suggested that Germany, France, Denmark and the Benelux countries might be joined by Switzerland and Austria in what would amount to an economic bloc based on the mark.

The reports of a new Paris-Bonn plan for a two-speed Europe, quoted in *Die Welt*, suggested that by 1997 the three Benelux countries would form a new nucleus in the heart of Europe centred on the Franco-German axis that traditionally has been at the core of the Community. The newspaper said the idea was to counter British and Danish attempts to slow the Maastricht ratification process.

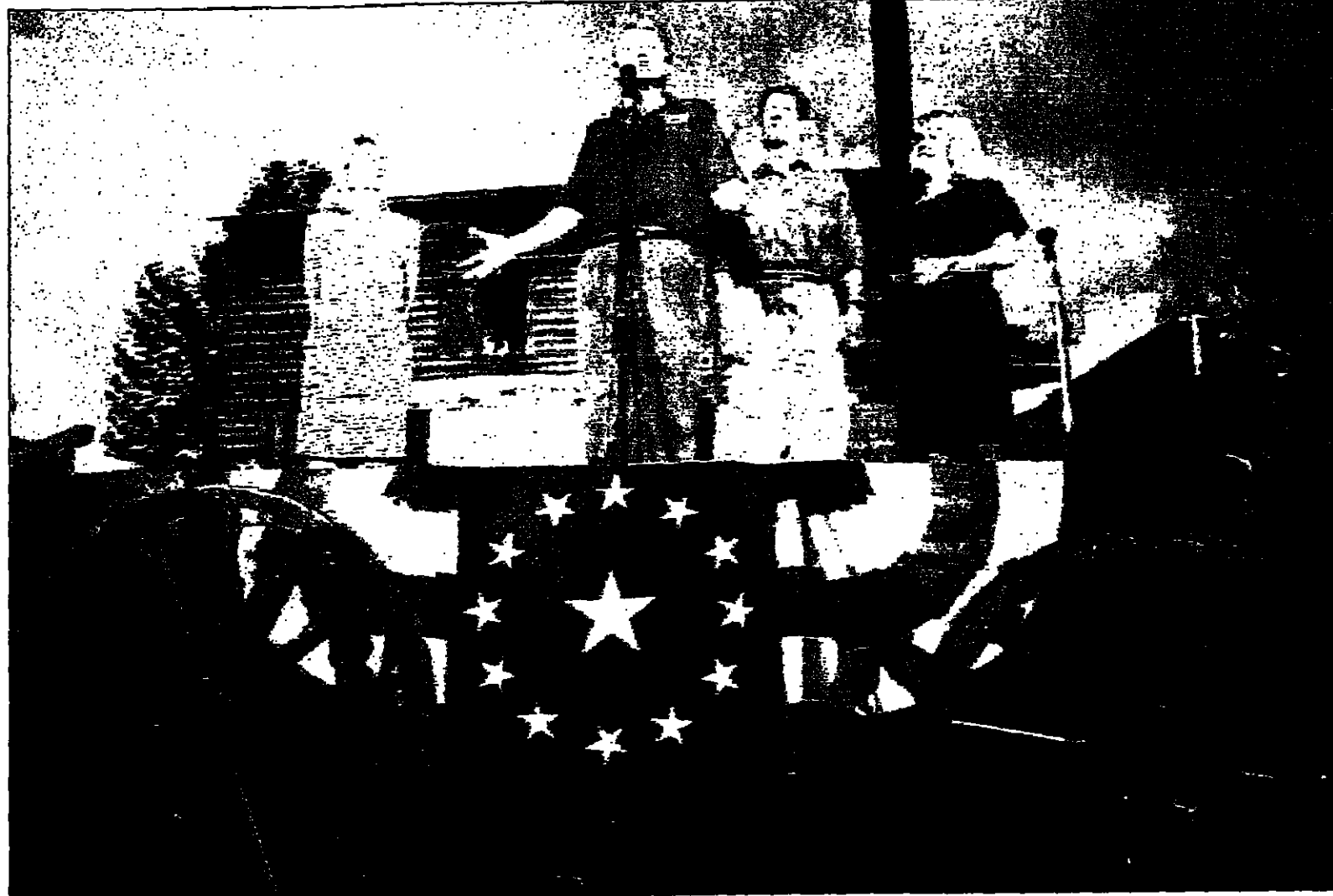
Herr Kohl, who has become increasingly anxious about realising his dream of European unity during the past tumultuous week, instructed his spokesman to issue a statement insisting that "these claims are invented and have no basis in fact".

Jacques Delors, the president of the EC Commission, said at a businessmen's seminar in Brussels last night that if states such as Britain and Denmark delayed European political and monetary union promised by the Maastricht treaty, a smaller group of countries may go ahead on its own. In an impassioned plea to Europe's statesmen to keep the momentum of European integration going, M Delors said that the Continent was faced with the prospect of decline if it failed to meet the present challenges posed by deep divisions over ratification of Maastricht and turmoil on financial markets.

"If some countries are looking for alibis for delaying the treaty," he said, "it may well be that others will take an initiative. In the world as it is, we cannot delay."

M Delors added that the Commission was working on solutions to stabilise the ERM, although he would not disclose details while the markets were still sensitive.

Parliament, page 4  
Delors eyes Elysee, page 12  
Battle for franc, page 19



Riding the Democratic bandwagon: Bill Clinton and his running mate Al Gore hit the campaign trail in Georgia with their wives, pausing to address the crowds from their colourful old-fashioned hustling

## Smith's dazzling debut exposes Tory U-turn over the economy

Continued from page 1

per examination of where future British interests lay, he said. "My expectation is always that co-operation is a better way, if it can be seen to be adequate — and no one should doubt that we will examine carefully whether the mechanism can be made to work. I do not believe that we shall be able to go back to the mechanism soon, or into the same mechanism we left."

Mr Major made plain that the Maastricht bill would not come back until Britain knew how the Danes intended to try to reverse their "no" vote, and until the new curbs on Brussels had been agreed. The latter condition is designed to placate the Euro-sceptics who have gained strength.

Mr Major, speaking of people's fears that the Community intervenes too intrusively in national life, made plain that he was looking for a "definition, a settled order of what is for national action and what is for community action".

The issue is to be debated at the special Community summit to be held in Birmingham

on October 16, and government sources said they hoped firm proposals would come before the Edinburgh summit in December.

Jacques Delors, Commission president, has indicated his readiness to accept new restrictions on petty restrictions set by Brussels and on its ability to interfere in purely national matters, such as motorway planning. In the wake of the concerns thrown up in Denmark, France and Germany, EC leaders are believed to accept the need for a new mechanism setting out limits on the Commission's power.

Labour MPs were voicing delight at Mr Smith's debut which has boosted party morale in the run-up to the annual conference next week. He threw back at the prime minister repeated statements that he had made saying there would be no devaluation. "We have a government whose economic policy is in tatters, whose credibility is blown, whose competence has been exposed," he claimed. Britain was lurching back to Thatcherite economic policies

that "pulverised" the economy during the 1980s. He asked how anybody could ever believe in anything Mr Major said after his recent performance. "What has occurred in the course of the last week or so is not just an upset for the government's economic policy, but the complete destruction of what they claimed was a total political and economic strategy to which you yourself could not have been more closely committed."

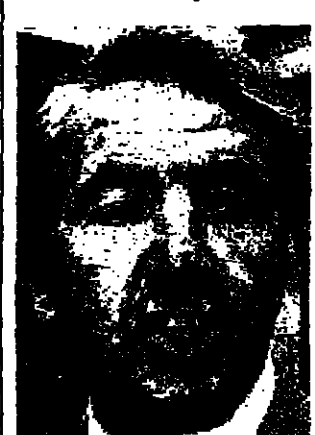
Mr Smith challenged Mr Major on why he did not press for a general realignment within the ERM once the extent of the sterling crisis became clear. This would have saved Britain from being forced to leave the ERM and the government from having to spend £1 billion propping up the currency. "If this had been done we could have had an orderly realignment, not a rout: a co-operative change, not a crisis."

Parliament, page 4  
Peter Riddell, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## It's Dennis v Goliath in clash of the Titans

Continued from page 1

at last. Now rose a giant: Mr Goliath Heath, rather slimmer than before, his white hair soft and sleek in the television lights. John Smith, he said "has done rather well, if I may say so. But now we have to turn to serious business". He called for more thought and fewer emergency summits where "too much time is spent at lunch and dinner". "Yeah, you should



Skinner: taking up burden of history

know!" the Boy Dennis let fly at Goliath with his sling.

"Indeed, And I've been trying to lose weight ever since," Sir Edward continued his argument, flattening Denmark with one swing. Mr Hecker continued his anti-European heckle. Heath turned, exasperated, on Hecker. "How can you call yourself a socialist when you have such a hatred of your fellow men and women in other countries?"

Skinner's reply was full of words like "daff" and "dustbin". Heath thanked him for the moderation of his language and turned to assure another doubter that useful lessons could be learned from Canada, whence he had just returned. — "Who said?" shouted Skinner. — "Not an Arab," snapped Sir Edward.

"Sit down," shouted Skinner, "while you're winning." It was good advice. Sadly, Sir Edward did not take it. Mr Major stared glassily into the middle distance.

Minor earthquake. Sir Edward and Mr Skinner unhurt. The prime minister also survived.

## Mellor quits as Major struggles

Continued from page 1

ble. Friends of Mr Mellor said that he defended his position on television so that he might leave with some dignity.

The three women in Mr Mellor's life expressed sadness at his resignation. Judith Mellor, his wife, said: "I am just very, very sad that someone with such ability is not able to serve his country in the way he can do best."

Miss de Sancha said: "It is very sad he has resigned." She did not believe that she was responsible because if their affair had been the catalyst Mr Mellor would have stepped down long ago. She believed that he had gone because of the most recent allegations — about his paid-for holidays at Mrs Bauwens' Spanish home and in Abu Dhabi. He had been brave and she hoped he would make a comeback.

Mrs Bauwens said that she was "very sorry" to hear of his departure. "My heart goes out to them and their children."

Bryan Gould, Mr Mellor's Labour shadow, who had accused Mr Mellor of breaking ministerial rules for accepting gifts and services, said that he was right to resign. He had come to the point at which he could no longer perform his ministerial duties. "Whatever our opinions about his conduct, the stories were about his private life and I can have sympathy with anyone hounded by the tabloid press."

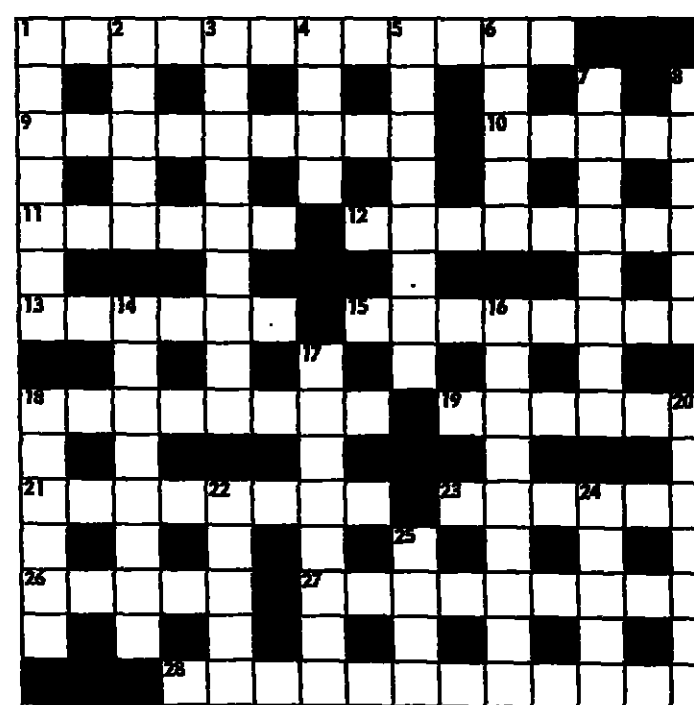
"But it has become increasingly clear that Mr Mellor was in breach of rules regarding ministerial conduct and that has prevented him carrying out his duties." It was a sad day for Britain's cultural life, said Mr Gould.

"I cannot see anyone else in the Conservative Party who will bring the same vigour to the post, and the danger to the BBC in the run-up to Charter renewal must now be more acute." Lord Palumbo, Arts Council chairman, said Mr Mellor's departure was "a great loss to the arts."

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff said on ITN: "I am afraid that against the issues we are debating this afternoon I regard Mr Mellor's fate as totally, totally trivial and not worth bothering with."

Mellor's trials, page 3  
William Westwood, page 14  
Diary, page 14  
Leading article and letters, page 15  
Modern Times, L & T section, page 4

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,033



- ACROSS**
- Stick to port with this snack (4,8).
  - Big turtle is horrible, messy creature (6,3).
  - Loop with ring appropriately placed for bull (5).
  - Walk and fish on Sunday (6).
  - Crazy person taking two drugs (8).
  - A plain in Spain? (6).
  - King must get near man to be dubbed (8).
  - Record deceases in such poems (8).
  - Short dress Liz can't quite get into for sport (6).
  - Cram old fibrous strands into upholstered item? (8).
  - Engross the attention of sailors with a globe (6).
  - Foot's peculiar language finally changing (5).
- DOWN**
- Instrument rendering each end of the scale off key (7).
  - Total say (5).
  - Balance ready — let's put in order (9).
  - Writing points to his mock title (4).
  - Risking money earned on love token (8).
  - One who may be trusty in charge of a section (5).
  - It has op bungled with money short? (8).
  - Eight or twice as many roughly in residence (6).
  - Phone must at home, the source of domestic power (4,4).
  - Soldier eating a coarse biscuit (9).
  - Some in Paris restricting frivolous pleasures (8).
  - Sort of maize that's said to be powdery (6).
  - In Connecticut a drinking parlour laid on oriental entertainment.
  - Half-hearted madman, malicious type (5).
  - Wild cat to strike suddenly? Head off (5).
  - French food is a nuisance (4).

**Solution to Puzzle No 19,032**

OPTICIAN, SMARMY, KEEPER, ANEWS, LINER, ANEWS, HEARTACHE, GARGO, MARMSEY, SUPPLY, ASLEEP, GALUMPH, VANDER, LANDOWN, SIGNOR, LEMER, LENGTH, DEGRADE

By Philip Howard

**YERK**

- To draw stitches tight
- A great or idiot
- To round the ryepeak at rowing

**CLERISY**

- Hersey by a priest
- An aromatic root
- Learned men as a body

**CUMMER**

- An abandoned woman
- A hay-making tool
- A godmother

**JIMP**

- A slender, slim
- A shoeless boy
- A reverse gybe while sailing

Answers on page 16

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 401 followed by the appropriate code.

**London & SE traffic, roadworks**

C. London (within N & S Circles) 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

**National traffic and roadworks**

National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Yorkshire 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-east England 742  
North-west England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

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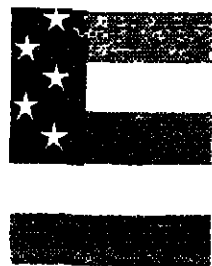
Rivergate House, Blackbrook Park, Tunstun, Somerset, TA1 2PE  
Tel: 0823 623555, Fax: 0823 623050

South-east and eastern England will have outbreaks of rain. The rest of England and Wales will be bright with showers, but rain from the east will affect the West Midlands and north-east England by evening. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland should have showers, heavy at times, becoming confined to northern Scotland. Outlook: rain in south and east will creep west; it should ease in central areas on Sunday. Elsewhere, mainly dry.

**MIDDAY: 1-10:00, 11-12:00, 13-14:00, 15-16:00, 17-18:00, 19-20:00, 21-22:00, 23-24:00**

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	12	10	100	Drizzle
Edinburgh	10	10	100	Drizzle
Belfast	10	10	100	Drizzle
Cardiff	10	10	100	Drizzle
Manchester	10	10	100	Drizzle
Sheffield	10	10	100	Drizzle
Leeds	10	10	100	Drizzle
Nottingham	10	10	100	Drizzle
Coventry	10	10	100	Drizzle
Birmingham	10	10	100	Drizzle
Southampton	10	10	100	Drizzle
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Cardiff	10	10	100	Drizzle
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# LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

HEALTH p5,6

Picture this:  
new screening  
for Down's  
syndrome



## My other car's a classic

Strange objects of the motorists' desire are on show on Sunday

You might have bought it just to cope with the weekly load from Sainsbury's and a daily troop of schoolkids who could knock the stuffing out of an armoured car, never mind a humble hatchback. But before you give the family jalopy a kick on the way past this morning, think again.

Inside that rusting hulk, there could be a star waiting to burst on to the catalogues of eager collectors. After all, one man's ageing runabout is another man's classic car.

The collectors will all be there this weekend, at the Grand London Autojumble: prodding, admiring and smiling at cars that 20 years ago would not have attracted a second glance.

Of course, there will be some genuinely classic cars, gorgeous Jaguars, Porsches and Ferraris which rarely see the light of day, cosseted recluses rising in value faster than the Deutschmark. But there will also be lines of Morris Minors, Fords, Austins and Hillmans. Who turned them into classics?

The Morris Minor was the runabout that Lord Nuffield sniffily described as a "poached egg". Morris went on to make more than 1.5 million of these small, ugly cars between 1948 and 1971. Their technology would hold few surprises for Daimler or Benz, if they could return from the grave. Yet Minors are out



A classic for the collector: the Sunbeam Alpine

there in their thousands. What makes classic car enthusiasts spend £1,000 on a car that was designed shortly after the second world war and needs constant care and attention?

They never bill and ooze over a 40-year-old washing machine. Ask them to do the family laundry in a 1952 Hoover and they would send out for the men in white coats. No one can truly understand the true enthusiasm, the doctors and solicitors who spend their weekends touring Britain for a gramophone for a 1949 Hillman.

Now there are the young, newly wealthy muscling in. They already have a proper car (almost always owned by their company) and want something "special". The MGB is their current favourite. MGBs haven't been manufactured for a dozen years but there are more of them per square inch of road in 1992 than almost any other sports car. Look through the windscreen and the chances are that there is a driver just waiting for heads to turn.

If you spot a classic among today's cars, then dash out and buy a dozen, and wait for the value to roll up.

Then again, you might already have a classic in your drive. Take another look at the old hanger. A bit of a clean-up and some polish and...

KEVIN EASON

●The Grand London Autojumble, Kempton Park Racecourse, Sunday, September 27, 10am to 5pm. Admission: adults £3, pensioners £2, children £1.

Motoring: pages 7 and 9

## After six years as Master of Marlborough, David Cope is to leave teaching. Why?

You can spot the headmasters in the cobbled streets of the pretty little town of Bruges. Tall, graying, reassuring and dependable figures, some with clerical collars or smoking a pipe.

This year the Headmasters' Conference has gone continental, hence the location. But what causes more angst than Maastricht in the magisterial bosom is the increasingly fragile nature of his job: witness the resignation, just announced, of David Cope, the elongated, bespectacled Master of Marlborough.

It has been a tough year. Heads have rolled at some of Britain's top schools: Helen Williams at St

was too much rule-breaking at the smoking and drinking level. There was no corporate spirit.

"I was also very shaken, having been in a co-educational environment for ten years, with boys and girls on equal terms and equally valued, to return to a blatantly male chauvinist world," he says. His own elder daughter, who had joined the sixth form, found it hard to take.

"The boys did treat the girls in, frankly, quite an unpleasant way. The story that's always told about those days is that when the new girls went in for their first meal, they had to run the gauntlet of having themselves graded; the boys holding up numbers, like in an ice-skating competition, rating their attractiveness. And that did happen. The Marlborough expression was 'Getting grief'. You 'got grief' if you were a girl and you 'gave grief' if you were a boy.

"It was basically male territory. The school only selected the kind of girls who would be robust enough not only to keep up the academic pace but to withstand the male culture. Shrinking violets were not accepted, on the whole. Even so, there was the odd casualty who left in her first year because she found the atmosphere daunting."

Beastly boys do not change overnight, but Mr Cope seized on the solution of making the whole school mixed from the age of 13. With a windfall of £8 million from selling off land (these were the boom years of 1986-7) he built new houses. The whole school became much more pleasant. The only flies in the ointment were the older boys, who objected to the character of their school changing. They did not care much for Mr Cope's new rules, like not being allowed to wander about the campus after prep. "It is an open campus with lots of dark corners for smoking a crafty cigarette, and many exits, and you can't supervise it like a police state. The senior boys felt I was too strict for Marlborough, which is supposed to be a liberal school, not a dull, conformist place."

There was also the collective memory of the more lenient and avuncular Mr Ellis. All new heads face this. The definition of a saint, Mr Cope says, is a head who does not think uncharitable thoughts about his predecessor. Mr Cope is saintly enough, but confesses that he must have appeared austere and remote. Even his commanding height was a factor. The selection committee that appointed him had been asked, "Please, let's not have another Wykehamist", and, "Could we have someone tall?" They got a tall Wykehamist who



Civilising influences: during his time at Marlborough, David Cope made the school co-educational from the age of 13 and much less sexist

drugs and sex. It is, after all, his willingness to act openly about these that has made him so very exposed, the press coverage making the school out to be, he says, a "den of iniquity with rampaging adolescents out of control."

"All young people at any kind of school come into contact with drugs, or know someone who does. That problem is not one of school, it is a problem of the society in which we live."

Mr Cope's draconian rule of instant expulsion — in his second year seven boys were expelled for drug-taking — remains. Only this term he has instituted a new policy of urine testing where drugs are suspected. It is now a signed condition of entry that parents permit this. If a second chance is

people think, a boy and girl are found together, and are asked to leave. We make it clear what the limits are."

The expulsion last year of the 15-year-old girl who was on the Pill was, in his view, misrepresented. "The girl consulted a GP in confidence. In a boarding school that GP is likely to be the medical officer retained by the school. It was his decision, which he correctly communicated to no-one but the girl. I did not know, nor did her parents or housemistress. So to blame 'the school' is grossly unfair. I can understand people thinking that the school operated a double standard — and there is a tension between the moral basis of the rules and the right to an individual child to make individual judgments, and to confidentiality."

As all heads know, adolescents are not going to give up their predilection for transgressing. But after next summer Mr Cope at least will not be held responsible. He is taking a sabbatical in the autumn — he has a small house in London and a larger farmhouse in Gascony — when he will contemplate his future. Perhaps that will be running an international charity, "something that would benefit people other than the well-heeled."

Recently, in Jaipur in India, an old soothsayer read his palm, gaining Mr Cope's confidence when he guessed the name of Mr Cope's mother (Eileen). "You are going to write a book," the soothsayer said, "a celebrated book." What manner of book this will be Mr Cope does not know.

The worst moment in the past few years came when his younger daughter was herself expelled from her school after a drinking episode. He did not blame the press — "It was an interesting story," he says. "Head of top school who expelled boys for drinking has the same thing happen to his own daughter." — but he found it "distressing" to see his child described in tabloids.

"I would not be wholly honest if I did not admit I shall be very glad to be free of what has sometimes seemed to be relentlessly hostile, mischief-making publicity at the expense of the school."

"You need a thick skin to be a headmaster, but then people who want to puncture it press all the harder."

He would find it "emotionally impossible" to gear himself up to another school. "A headmaster is in the centre of a web, under a searching spotlight. The web is made up of different groups, themselves in conflict and expectant — the pupils, the parents, the governors, the old boys, the local community, the media, and the public at large. All the pressures bear in on you and it is not getting any easier. Parents want value for money. The fees go up ahead of inflation. They want good results, and the league table syndrome exacerbates this, although I don't think it gives



Also resigned: Nigel Richardson of The Dragon school, in Oxford

was also very strict, and preoccupied with the building programme. "I'm sure there is some justice in the criticism that I seemed distant. I was not ubiquitous, strolling around the campus," he says.

But after the five-year hurdle, when all the pupils who remembered the old days had gone, things got easier. He declares he is now very happy with the feel of the school: the social tone is right. The senior prefect is the remarkable Bronte Flecker, daughter of a former Marlborough housemaster, and the third girl to be senior prefect. Girls' achievements and principles now matter as much as the boys', Mr Cope has done well.

So why go? He feels off the answers: he has done 20 years' headmastering; he has faced challenges at three different schools; he is looking for fresh fields.

So let us talk, Mr Cope, about

**'You need a thick skin, but then people who want to puncture it press all the harder'**

allowed, periodic urine testing is required. No doubt Marlborough is no worse than many schools, but Mr Cope's candour suggests otherwise. "I think we have led the way in this matter. It may be that some schools will be nervous about facing the problem for fear of the bad publicity. People think if you are doing that you must have a massive problem."

Sex, Mr Cope says, is quite simple. It is not allowed. "We have a strict, clear rule in black and white, that explicit sexual relations, anything that I consider to be sexual impropriety, and anything described as sexual harassment, will lead to expulsion. From time to time, human nature being what it is, but far less frequently than

anywhere near the true measure of a school's worth. On top of that the recession is affecting parents' ability to pay, so we face the possibility of declining numbers."

Who would a headmaster be? Only those with true valour. On Wednesday morning in Bruges, the headmasters and their wives cheered to the rafters the formidable Mme Gentzbitel, head of the Lycée Fenelon in Paris. She sported a black eye — given to her, she explained, by an aggrieved pupil who came to her flat last weekend.

Father Dominic Milroy, lately head of Ampleforth and chairman of the conference, said one had to admire a youth who would take on Mme Gentzbitel. "But he was defeated in the end," she replied.

John Rae, a high-profile headmaster in his years at Westminster, will lift the lid off the lonely perils of headship in his next book, out next January. Heads appear all-powerful, but are never unfettered. A hush falls as they enter the room. They are unpopular if decisive, and even more unpopular if they appear weak.

Businessmen attend courses on stress management, but there is no such training for the beleaguered head. Young men and women in their care are troublesome and their increasingly intrusive parents even more so.

Good men like Mr Cope are hard enough to find, and a headship today is only for the very tough. *Caveat magister*

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# Is there such a thing as a free trip?

As Parliament reassembles, Andrew Roth considers the tradition of politicians enjoying the hospitality of the wealthy

The practice of politicians of relatively modest means accepting the holiday hospitality of richer friends is nothing new. A prewar newsreel showed Winston Churchill painting a landscape in the south of France, presumably at the Cape d'Ail villa of Lord Beaverbrook, a well-known seducer of politicians of both the left and right. Later, there were other newsreel shots of Sir Winston painting near his host's home of Marrakesh, or aboard the Onassis yacht.

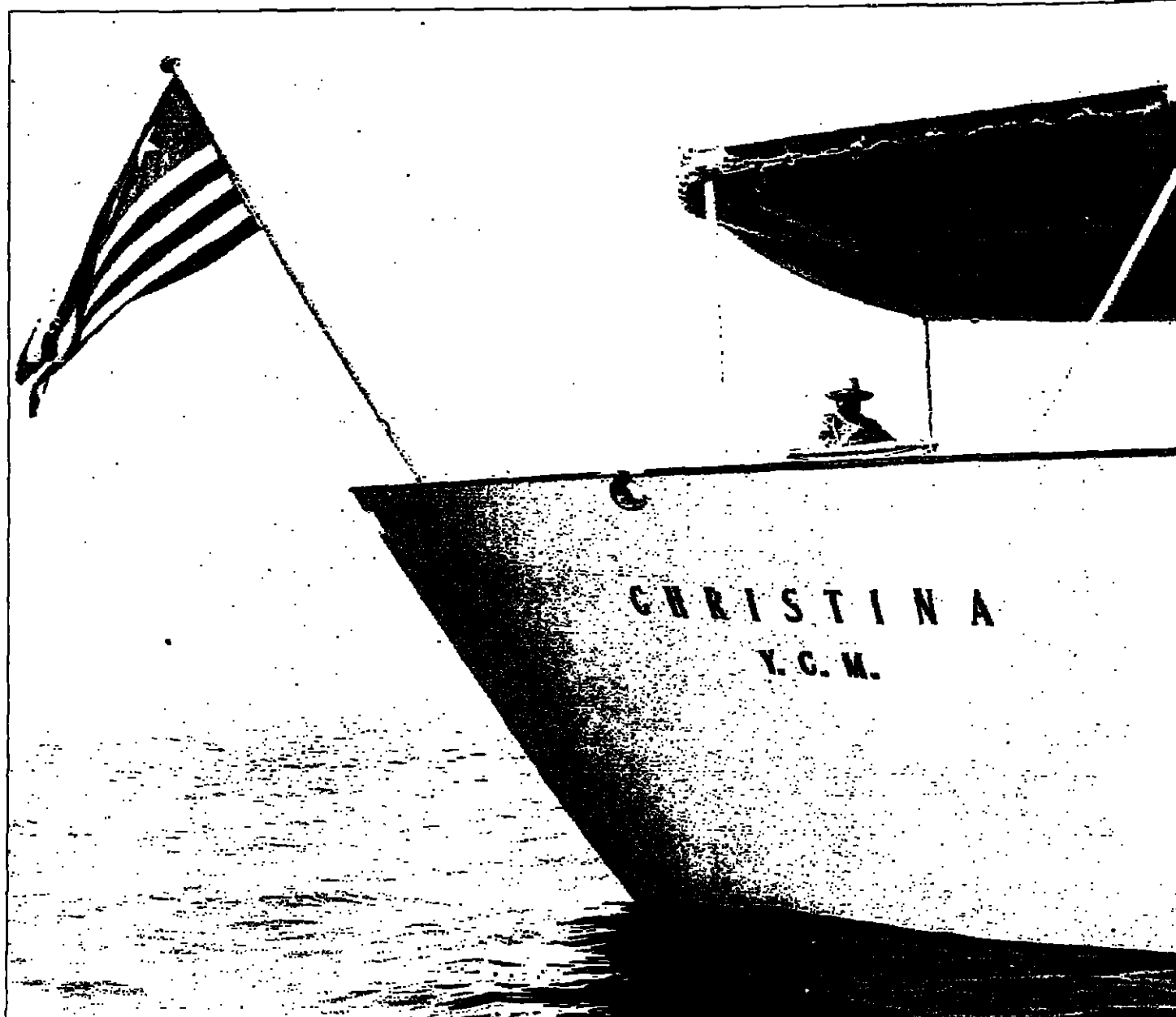
When journalists asked about Mrs Thatcher's summer plans when she was still in office, Bernard Ingham, her press secretary, seemed unwilling to confirm that she was again to be the guest of Lady Glover. He succeeded in persuading the media to avoid harassing the prime minister on the only genuinely foreign holiday Mrs Thatcher enjoyed.

Until the Mellor case, there has been curiously little interest in the identity of hosts or hostesses entertaining senior politicians at home or abroad. I was in the press party accompanying Edward Heath to China in 1974 after his February defeat, and learnt to my astonishment how frequently Mao Tse-tung had invited him there, before and after. Chairman Mao was under the delusion that Mr Heath, even out of office, could help organise Europe against the Soviets in a joint "squeeze" with the Chinese.

Chairman Mao's hospitality ensured that we were welcomed at Peking's airport by 30,000 banner-waving schoolchildren. When we wrote that Mr Heath's welcome had been just short of that accorded a head of state, Chairman Mao upped the ante. When we returned to the airport to fly to Shanghai, he added a military guard of honour, made up of smart Manchurian six-footers.

When the invitation was repeated the next year, Mr Heath punctiliously reported this Chinese hospitality in the first issue of the Register of Members' Interests of November 1975. He was supposed to do this, under the requirement to report overseas visits relating to or arising out of membership of the House where the cost of any such visit has not been wholly borne by the member or by public funds.

The attitude of MPs towards foreign trips at the expense of others varies widely, as might be imagined among 651 individuals of infinitely varying tastes and scruples. A puritan stick-at-home such as Dennis Skinner, who does



Politician at sea: Sir Winston Churchill in 1959, pictured on a holiday aboard the Onassis-owned luxury yacht Christina

not have a passport, is unlikely to accept any foreign invitations. Particularly since his hair-shirted code of honour does not allow him to accept even a glass of milk from a journalist or a free hotel room at the National Executive Committee's headquarters hotel at party conferences.

At the other extreme, there are a handful of MPs of all parties who consider free trips abroad to be the most valuable of their parliamentary perks and, on occasion, pursue these vigorously. The MP for Tynemouth — known as Neville "Globe" Trotter — has declared more than a score of such free trips in the past 18 years.

In most cases free-tripping is not excessive and often means no more than visiting parts of the world a politician might not be able to afford. MPs are adequately paid but there is no allowance for foreign travel. The whips take advantage of such desires and tend to dispense those invitations which come through them to loyal and dutiful MPs. Quite a few MPs have

accepted invitations to South Africa or Hong Kong as part of their political education, rather than special concern. Normally such trips have been declared, as required, in the Register of Members' Interests.

A few MPs bend the rules somewhat. Having been offered a free tourist-class ticket to, say, Hong Kong, they go to the PR firm for the airline and ask to have this bumped up to first-class. This would ordinarily cost more than £2,000. This has never been declared by any MP who has benefited from it, although the rules of the register demand the listing of any "payments or material benefits" received because they are MPs.

On occasion, an obsession with foreign travel goes further. Among the disclosures which emerged from the 1972 Poulson bankruptcy was the role of obscure Albert Roberts, a former miner and mines inspector who became the National Union of Miners sponsored Lab-

our MP for Normanton in 1951. He showed his interest in foreign travel by becoming active in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. On their behalf he travelled to Bangkok, then Nice, then Warsaw. His free-tripping obsession deepened in 1960 when he visited central Africa at the invitation of the PR firm Voice and Vision.

He was invited next year to Spain at the behest of Franco's Falange-organised syndicates, or imitation trade unions. Next year he was invited to Tanzania by Tanganyika Concessions or "Tanks", then headed by the former Tory MP, Captain Waterhouse. He showed his appreciation by writing articles flattery his host's activities. He also spoke in support of Portugal's fight against nationalists in Angola.

To continue his cost-free access to Spain, in 1963 Mr Roberts took over the role of Ness Edwards — father of the current MP Llin Golding — as the recruiter of Labour MPs to attend conferences of Falangist syndicates, which en-

compassed free holidays. He became an apologist for Franco's Spain, making a famous speech defending Spain's right to Gibraltar in May 1968. It was his Spanish obsession which led him to accept the invitation of the architect John Poulson to seek Spanish contracts for him. The payments he received emerged when Poulson went bankrupt in 1972.

Many MPs returning prematurely from holidays at their own or others' expense think that David Mellor has probably violated the rules for ordinary MPs, much less ministers, despite the prime minister's assurance to the contrary.

Among the few remaining Tory squires, there is a lot of nut-tutting about how slack behaviour has become. There has always been a problem of unequal distribution of wealth, even among Conservatives. But if he was invited to a country house party, no old-time Tory would ever think of asking for his rail fare.

● The author is the editor of Parliamentary Profiles.

## MINISTERIAL RULES

DAVID MELLOR'S possible breach of ministerial rules has caused him a lot more trouble among his parliamentary colleagues than his adultery. MPs still think written rules about their sacred institution at Westminster should be abided by, while unwritten rules need not be.

The rules governing ministerial conduct were published for the first time last May. *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* is given to ministers when they take office. They are expected to read it and raise any queries with the permanent secretary of the department concerned. More serious problems can be raised with the prime minister.

Two key sections of the rule book apply to Mr Mellor's acceptance of the expenses-paid holiday from Mona Bauwens and the loan of a car from Elliott Bernerd.

Paragraph 79 says that ministers should "not overlook the possible foreign policy implications of such day to day matters as offering hospitality to prominent political figures visiting this country or accepting social commitments of a similar kind."

"Such actions may be construed as significant by foreign observers of the United Kingdom. In any case of doubt, ministers should consult the foreign secretary before making commitments."

Paragraph 81 sets out the rules that should apply if a gift is accepted. "In all cases it should be reported to the Permanent Secretary. Gifts of small value (up to £125) may be retained by the recipient. Gifts of a higher value should be handed over to the Department for disposal."

Later the rules continue: "It is a well-established and recognised rule that no minister or public servant should accept gifts, hospitality or services from anyone which would, or might appear to, place him or her under an obligation. The same principle applies if gifts etc. are offered to a member of their family."

This is left up to ministers' good sense, it adds. "But any minister in doubt or difficulty over this should seek the PM's guidance." It is understood that no ministers have asked the prime minister's advice on whether or not to accept gifts. Asked whether Mr Mellor had sought Margaret Thatcher's permission over accepting the air tickets to Marbella in 1990, Downing Street officials merely said that records were not kept "on that sort of thing".

JILL SHERMAN

Tom Kalin, hailed as a new hero for homosexuals, talks about his new film, *Swoon*

## On location in queer street

When the film *Basic Instinct* first came out in America, protests were organised against it. Cinemas were picketed, and people wore spoiler T-shirts saying "Sharon Stone did it". The film was condemned as a gratuitous attack on the homosexual community because it portrayed a lesbian as a psychopathic killer. Worse still, it followed *Silence of the Lambs*, which had portrayed a homo-

sexual man as a psychopathic serial killer. This coincidence was interpreted as a homophobic plot. There was much moaning about the lack of positive images of homosexuals in Hollywood.

Less than a year later, a new film, *Swoon*, which opens in Britain today, portrays two homosexual men as psychopathic killers. There are no protests. There are great reviews. The film's director,

Tom Kalin, is hailed as a new messiah in the homosexual community.

*Swoon* is about two real-life Jewish intellectuals whose love became so obsessive, it allowed them to plan the "perfect" crime. In 1924, Nathan "Babe" Leopold Jr and Richard "Dickie" Loeb kidnapped and murdered a 14-year-old boy in Chicago, but were eventually caught by the clues they left behind and their

twisted alibis. Their trial became an international sensation; their defence was based on the suggestion that their criminality was linked to their sexuality. This allowed them to avoid death sentences by pleading insanity.

So far, so homophobic, it seems. But what takes *Swoon* out of the *Basic Instinct* league is Kalin's reinterpretation of the events of 1924 with the insight of contemporary attitudes. The prurient and vicious headlines, the bigoted ideas and the extraordinary medical and psychological theories of that time are garishly illuminated.

Kalin thinks the main difference between himself and the so-called Hollywood homophobes is that "*Basic Instinct* was, overall, a stupid movie". The man whose entire film budget was \$1 million (£588,000) refuses to take the issue entirely seriously. He does point out that there is presently a second wave of attack on *Basic Instinct* — it is now being panned by heterosexual women for being misogynist, not homophobic. "But then there are the others who find it liberating that a woman can have sex with anybody she wants, murder them, and get away with it," he laughs. "That's at least messy and challenging."

At 30, Kalin takes an appropriately world-weary tone. This is his first full-length feature film, and he has immediately been pigeonholed as a frontrunner in the "New Queer" or "PoMo Homo" (postmodern homosexual) cinema. Sharing his pigeonhole are Gregg Araki for *The Living End*, a road movie about two HIV positive lovers; Todd Haynes for *Poison*, set in a men's prison; and Christopher Munch for *The Hours and Times*, about a supposed dirty weekend featuring John Lennon and Brian Epstein.

"Well the market demands you become some sort of trend,

or you're just not sellable. First it was black cinema, then women's cinema, then the new black cinema..." He trails off into a snort. "Most film people don't see themselves as spokespersons. They just get cast as that. Now this label, New Queer Cinema, is about us reclaiming a label used to denigrate homosexuals in the past. It's ironic."

"Besides," he says, getting into his stride, "there's not one lesbian among this year's bunch at least." He is disappointed that Christine Vachon, his producer and assistant director, who also produced *Poison*, is not getting the attention she deserves. "Oh it's all auteur-driven. Look at the new gay-boy

This label, New Queer Cinema, is about us reclaiming a label used to denigrate homosexuals. It's ironic"

director', instead of looking at it as experimental art. I would like to be seen just as a film director."

Kalin knew about the 1924 case long before he knew he was homosexual. Growing up in Chicago, he loved to look through scrapbooks which his mother and grandmother had kept of fascinating crimes. "It was the only alluring and glamorous period that Chicago had. They were keen on all that stuff."

His subject matter does have broad appeal. In 1954, Richard Fleischer made *Compulsion*, based on the same trial, and in 1948 Alfred Hitchcock directed *Rope*, but in both, the homosexual element was played down, although they



Crime and passion: Daniel Schlachet and Craig Chester, obsessive lovers in *Swoon*

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THE TIMES

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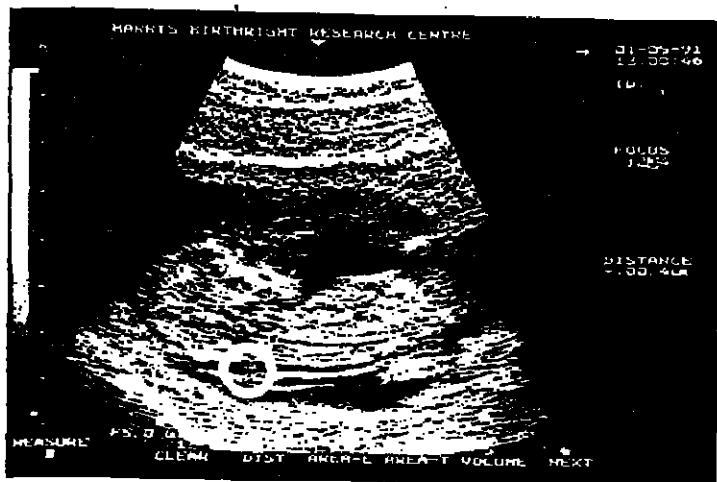


KATE MUIR



trip?

# A clearer image of motherhood



Picture of risk: on this ultrasound image the "dark space" marker which indicates a baby has an increased chance of being born severely handicapped is shown in the circle

Barbara Clark believes in her right to choose. She chose her career carefully and, like many professional women, she chose to delay having a family until her late thirties. But she knew that choice had its price — her age meant the baby had an increased risk of being born severely handicapped, and the test to check this increased the possibility of miscarriage.

But Mrs Clark has now become one of the first to benefit from a new, pain-free ultrasound method of screening for Down's syndrome, and other less common disorders that promises to take much of the agony out of that choice. The test carries no risk of miscarriage, and might mean that only those at the very highest risk of having an affected baby will have to progress to the more dangerous and uncomfortable tests now on offer.

For the five years up to her fortieth birthday, Mrs Clark, a London barrister, and her husband, a solicitor, had hoped for a baby. When she became pregnant last year they were delighted, but when she was three months pregnant, the baby she was carrying died.

In January this year, she gave birth to Helena, now eight months old and perfectly healthy. The possibility of losing this baby, too, made it difficult to contemplate either of the present tests for Down's — amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS) — both of which carry about a one in 100 risk of miscarriage. A healthy baby even if performed by a consultant who specialises in the technique. At 40, statistically, Mrs Clark's

risk of having a baby with Down's or other serious mentally handicapping chromosomal disorder was high: one in 45 (see chart).

Because of her previous problems, she was referred to King's College Hospital in south east London, which contains the Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine, one of the world's leading centres for diagnosis and treatment of the unborn baby. She was given the chance to take part in a preliminary trial of a pioneering method of screening.

The new screening test, developed by Kypros Nicolaides, the centre's director and professor of fetal medicine, is based on existing ultrasound techniques which are pain-free, non-invasive and carry no risk of miscarriage. Mrs Clark was one of 1,500 volunteers who took part in the two-year trial, just completed. The trial is likely to lead to a simple screening test, which Professor Nicolaides hopes will be available to all women in all hospitals in the country, regardless of age, within the next two years.

Professor Nicolaides has found that 90 per cent of those who are pregnant with a baby with Down's can be detected by the presence of a large black "space" behind the developing fetus's neck which shows up clearly on an ultrasound scan. Spina bifida could be detected at this stage only if very pronounced, and would have to be further investigated at the routine full abnormality ultrasound scan at about 20 weeks.

Next week, Professor Nicolaides is sending letters to all GPs, offering to carry out the new screening test for a trial period of a

**Aileen Ballantyne reports on a new ultrasound screening for Down's syndrome that could soon be made available to all pregnant women**

year at King's College Hospital for up to 20,000 women of all ages when they are only 11 weeks pregnant. His aim is to make it available to all women.

The dark "space" that shows up on the test is an additional volume of fluid, which is a marker for the characteristically foreshortened neck of babies with Down's. A woman whose unborn baby carries the marker will be given a statistical estimate of her risk of having an affected child based on this sign plus her age. She will then be offered a free modified CVS test which can produce a definitive result within three days.

This represents a huge step forward. A woman who goes for this option will know definitely whether or not she is carrying an affected baby when she is only three months pregnant, and will be able to opt for a relatively straightforward abortion rather than the highly traumatic mini-labour sometimes necessary because of the built-in delay with present tests.

The newer, modified version of CVS, is quicker because it does not require waiting for the cells to culture, a process which normally takes three weeks. But it is considered too unreliable to be used on its own. However, Professor Nicolaides points out, when it is taken together with the marker it gives a definite result.

When Mrs Clark was told her test results, it came as a pleasant surprise and she decided that, for her, the risk of a CVS was not worth taking. "Statistically, you are no longer aged 40, you are 32," Professor Nicolaides told her. "That means you came in here with about a one in 45 chance of having



Picture of health: Barbara Clark and baby Helena — she says she would not hesitate to rely on the new ultrasound test again

a baby with Down's or other serious chromosomal abnormality, and you now have a risk of about three or four times less than that — about one in 150."

For women whose unborn babies have the extra "space" behind the neck, or "nuchal tissue" marker as it is known, the new research gives an estimated ten-fold increase in having an affected child compared with other women of the same age. This means that, if her baby has the marker, a 35-year-old, who would not be offered either amniocentesis or CVS under the present system unless she chose to pay for it privately, is shown to be at just as much risk of having a Down's syndrome baby as a 43-year-old.

Professor Nicolaides and his team are now working with doctors at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who have recently developed the "triple marker" test which picks up three chemical markers for Down's syndrome from a simple blood test, but this test cannot be done until 16 weeks and its results are more complex to analyse.

The advantages of the King's College test, Professor Nicolaides says, are its potential to reduce the number of Down's syndrome babies born by 90 per cent compared with the estimated 50 per cent for the Barr's test; its simplicity, which means it could be put into practice in every hospital, and the fact that it

can be done so early.

In an article in the *Lancet* of September 19, Professor Nicolaides argues for the wider use of ultrasound scans to pick up serious abnormalities, and stresses that the present invasive methods of diagnosis have resulted in only a small reduction in the number of babies with Down's and other chromosomal abnormalities born in England and Wales every year. The latest Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys figures back up his argument. They show that in 1980, 7.3 per 10,000 babies born had Down's syndrome, compared with 5.9 per 10,000 in 1990.

Although the risk of giving birth to a Down's baby is considerably higher for women aged about 36 and over, most Down's syndrome babies in Britain are still born to younger women, because it is mainly younger women who have babies. Professor Nicolaides says that the present method of offering the invasive tests only to older women is picking up only about a third of the cases.

Ultrasound scans have, until now, appeared to be limited in their use for detecting disorders such as Down's at an early stage because of the complexity and length of the procedure, Professor Nicolaides

optimism that this test will be in use in all hospitals within the next two years is based partly on the fact that the marker is so obvious.

Doctors have observed that babies with Down's syndrome also have a shorter than average thigh bone, and a missing bone in the smallest finger. These are difficult to pick up by ultrasound at an early stage. But the increased volume of fluid behind the neck is particularly sensitive to measurement by ultrasound, making it a suitable candidate for a widespread test.

The use of this new marker as a tool to check who really needs to go through the next "hurdle" of more invasive tests to be absolutely certain looks extremely promising. It is a calculated risk, but one Mrs Clark says she would willingly take again. "I was not so completely free of anxiety as some of my friends who had had CVS," she says. "But for me, it was worth it."

She approached the choice as she would any important decision. She looked at the percentages. Professor Nicolaides split out the risk: a one in 150 avoidable risk of having a severely mentally handicapped baby against a one in 100 chance of miscarriage if a perfectly healthy one. Why did she decide to take the risk? She hesitated for only a second before replying: "Mathematically it made sense."

## FOETAL ABNORMALITIES: THE STATISTICS

Risk of carrying a baby with:		
Maternal age	Down's syndrome	Chromosomal abnormality including Down's
25	1 in 1,500	
30	1 in 800	
35	1 in 300	1 in 110
36	1 in 175	1 in 90
37	1 in 145	1 in 80
38	1 in 125	1 in 70
39	1 in 90	1 in 50
40	1 in 80	1 in 45
43	1 in 30	1 in 20
45	1 in 20	1 in 15

Source: Harris Birthright Research Centre for Fetal Medicine



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## On matters of the heart

SIR Geraint Evans died peacefully this week, greatly mourned by the opera world, eight days after suffering a heart attack.

A coronary thrombosis is only one of the causes of heart failure. Many other hearts will succumb, to a greater or lesser extent, to high blood pressure, which has either risen to alarming heights or has been present for too long, to valvular heart disease, to rheumatoid arthritis or a host of other conditions.

The mere mention of the words "heart failure", which can be sudden or gradual, can conjure up to the layman, the prospect of imminent death. However, it is merely the technical expression used by doctors to describe the pumping action of the heart when its output is no longer adequate to maintain the optimum circulation to the vital organs so that they may work with maximum efficiency. In order to avoid unnecessarily frightening patients many doctors prefer to use the euphemism "heart strain", which probably gives a better description of the state of the heart. Although it might not be



**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
**Dr Thomas Stuttaford**

pumping quite as well as it could be, many patients with the milder degrees of heart failure are able to live full lives, and many may not notice any disability even if they are taking normal exercise.

Although not a cause for immediate alarm heart failure, however mild, is associated with an increased mortality and needs expert treatment.

The signs and symptoms of heart failure depend on which chambers of the heart are predominantly affected. If the left ventricle is feeling the strain the pulse rate will increase, the patient will become breathless and may develop a cough, as well as feeling unusually tired. In right

ventricular strain patients will notice swollen ankles and may complain of upper abdominal discomfort from an enlarged liver. Left ventricular failure often leads to right-sided failure as well.

Generations of doctors have relied upon digitalis, or its artificial substitutes, to control the heart rate and rhythm, and diuretics to make the kidneys work overtime and, by passing more urine, ease the burden on the heart.

In the past few years a new group of drugs, the ACE inhibitors — drugs such as captopril (marketed as Acepril or Capoten), enalapril (Innovace) and lisinopril (Carace, Zestril) — have been introduced. But despite their proven efficacy doctors have been slow to accept a change in their well-established prescribing habits. Now, having read the evidence published during this year in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, even the most conservative doctors must admit that they owe it to their patients with heart failure to consider ACE inhibitors as a means of prolonging the length, and enhancing the quality, of their lives.

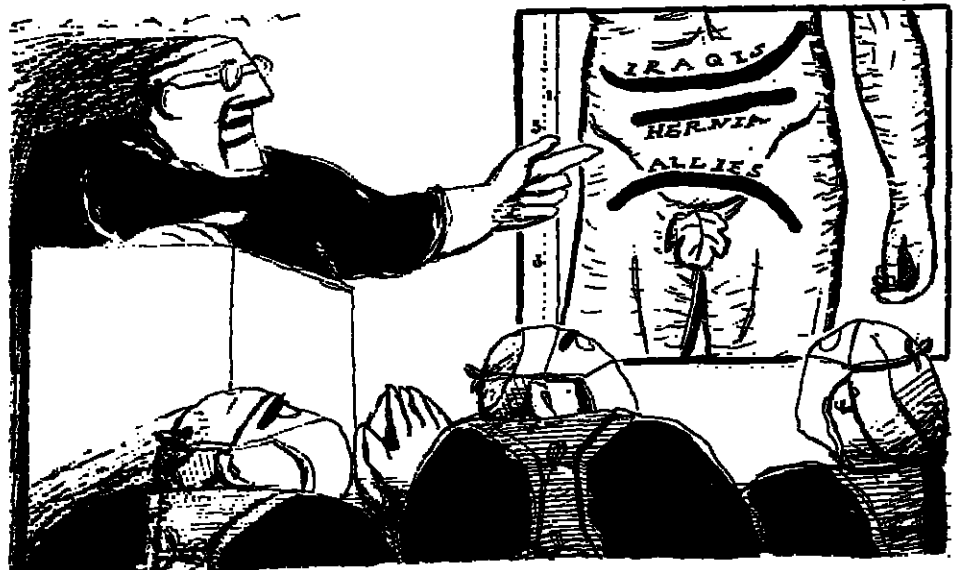
### Healing hand

IT IS surprising how many patients tolerate the carpal-tunnel syndrome without consulting a doctor. The syndrome is characterised by pain and tingling in the thumb and first three fingers. It may also extend up the arm. The pain is worse at night, and the syndrome can result in the patient losing strength in their grip and a weak thumb, leading them to drop things unexpectedly.

The carpal-tunnel syndrome is due to pressure on the median nerve where it runs under a strap of tough, fibrous tissue at the wrist. If the tissue around the nerve becomes swollen or inflamed the median nerve becomes pinched.

Women are more likely to suffer from carpal-tunnel syndrome than men, and it is most common between the ages of 30 and 65. It has previously been noted that the menopause can induce the troubles, but until recent research from Israel was reported in the *BMJ* there has never been any suggestion that the symptoms could be alleviated by HRT. This is now shown to be the case.

For those patients who reject HRT, or are unsuitable for it, a minor operation, or even a hydro-cortisone injection, can ease the pressure on the nipped nerve and relieve the symptoms.



### Surgery the solution when hernia strikes

RECENTLY, Saddam Hussein secretly flew a British surgical team to Jordan to operate on his trusty lieutenant Izzat Ibrahim who, it is claimed, was suffering from a hernia, a rupture.

Hernias have an undeservedly bad reputation, so the diagnosis often causes unnecessary concern to many patients. Some men, perhaps having seen advertisements for trusses, expect terrible complications; others see it as a reflection on, or danger to, their manhood. But their manhood is only at stake if, as

may happen, the blood supply to the testicles is inadvertently damaged during surgery.

Hernias can affect either sex, and any age group. They are caused by a defect in the muscle covering the abdomen so that the abdominal contents are able to protrude through the weak patch, thus causing a swelling in the groin. Usually the swelling can be easily popped back into the abdominal cavity: the hernia is then described as being "easily reducible". Complications can occur if the protruberant intestine is

trapped, or "incarcerated". If the blood supply to the trapped part of the gut is cut off strangulation follows, and a potentially very serious emergency exists.

Because of the danger of incarceration and strangulation, an operation should always be undergone when a hernia is diagnosed. In all but older patients danger from surgery is insignificant, unless the operation is done as an emergency, possibly late at night when the patient is under-prepared and the hospital staff not at their best.

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# Physician — infect thymself

Liz Gill on the  
research scientists  
who double as their  
own guinea-pigs

At one point in the film *Hair Soup*, David Suchet, playing the scientist Roger Altounyan, is shown in the throes of a self-induced asthma attack. As he struggles for breath his eyes widen with elation. "This is wonderful," he gasps. "It's the worst attack I've had in years." The moment is a neat illustration of the key elements of self-experimentation: courage, imagination and a resolve that seems to border on recklessness.

Dr Altounyan spent nearly ten years, from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s, personally testing hundreds of compounds in an attempt to find a cure for a disease that affects over two million people in this country. An asthmatic himself, he would provoke two or three attacks a week by boiling up a bell brew of guinea pig hair to which he was allergic — hence the film's title — and then inhaling the vapour.

By the time he got to compound 670 in 1964 he had discovered that, still one of the most widely used treatments for the illness, and probably shortened his life: he died at the age of 65 in 1985 after years of severe chest problems.

His daughter Barbara, a BBC television reporter who appears as herself in the drama, says: "All those attacks must have cost him something, but you cannot be angry about it because it was worth every moment to him. He was angry that asthma was not taken seriously and totally obsessed about getting something done. And he did revolutionise the treatment."

Intal is particularly effective for children and younger asthmatics: regular use can either prevent attacks altogether or substantially reduce their frequency and severity.

*Hair Soup* was produced by Kim Gordon, Mrs Altounyan's husband. "There is a noble tradition of scientists using themselves in this way," Mr Gordon says. "I did some further research on the subject because I wanted to see how relevant it was today. It still seems to go on. For instance, I talked to a researcher who took one of the early beta-blockers and a toxicologist who swallowed hookworm larvae."

In his book *Who Goes First*, Lawrence Altman, a doctor and the medical correspondent of *The New York Times*, describes examples of those who have used their own bodies as raw material for research. From the 16th century to the

present day, doctors and scientists have given themselves diseases, injected themselves with new vaccines, swallowed new drugs, submitted to experimental procedures, deliberately induced pain in order to develop ways of stopping it, subjected their bodies to extreme stresses and gone without certain foods to study the role of vitamins.

"I was amazed to find what a strong tradition there is of self-

**'No matter how many lab tests you do on animals or on computer, anything new has to be tested on a human being'**

experimentation, particularly in England, and how long it's been going on. The earliest example I've traced is to Padua, in Italy, at the end of the 1500s," Dr Altman says. "No matter how many lab tests you do, whether on animals or on computers or in test tubes, there comes a point where anything new has to be tested on a human being."

"There are many reasons for self-experimentation, but I think the overwhelming one is belief in the golden rule: don't do something to someone else that you would not be prepared to do or have done to yourself. There are other attractions: dependability — physicians and scientists may see things ordinary volunteers might overlook — plus the convenience, availability and reliability of one's self."

For some, like Jesse Lazar, who died of yellow fever in experiments to establish the role played by mosquitoes in spreading the disease, the endeavour can end sadly.

However, Dr Altman says he was surprised by the low number of fatalities. "Everyone talks about how dangerous it is, but I only found a handful of deaths. Occasionally someone is very foolish, but on the whole I think self-testers tend to know their limits."

In some areas of medicine there seems to be a tradition of going first. Many vaccines were taken by their originators and as recently as 1986 the French physician Daniel Zagury tested a candidate Aids vaccine for safety by injecting it into his own arm.

There are strict rules governing patient trials and tests on healthy volunteers, but self-experimentation seems to fall into a sort of limbo. It is not mentioned in the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's extensive guidelines on the testing of new medicines. "Drug companies don't like it because they don't want the legal responsibility if something goes wrong," Dr Altman says. "A lot of companies have rules against it, but some turn a blind eye."

Paul Jackett, assistant health and safety officer at the Medical Research Council, says there are no specific official prohibitions relating to self-testing. "There are guidelines from the national Health and Safety Executive which tell scientists not to use their own blood or tissue for experiments in genetic manipulation," Dr Jackett says. "This is because if there was an accident and a mutated cell was reintroduced into the original host body there would be a danger that it would not be seen as a foreign agent and the immune system would not be alerted."

The most memorable self-tests have been the most dramatic. Most doctors will know the names of Werner Forssmann, the young German intern who pushed a 30-inch catheter tube through a vein in his arm into his own heart and so revolutionised cardiac techniques in the late 1920s, and John Scott Haldane, who seems to have spent much of his career at the turn of the century subjecting his body to extremes of temperature, oxygen deprivation or the inhalation of various noxious gases. The good doctor even passed on his enthusiasm to his son Jack. But much self-testing goes on at a more conventional level.



Testing himself in the search of a cure: Roger Altounyan. "He revolutionised asthma treatment"

Chris Curtis, an entomologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is currently testing mosquito repellent by rubbing it on one arm and then putting both arms in the mosquito cage. "You offer them the arm without the lotion to check that they really are hungry. We also test in lower and lower dosages until it falls, so both arms get bitten."

"I only come up in little bumps, I don't get all itchy, and the mosquitoes are unaffected so there is no danger of malaria. I'm not being a great hero. But it is the best way of doing it. You get quite different results on animals or artificial membranes. It's also a lot easier. I'd have to go through an ethics committee if I used someone else and it doesn't seem worth it. This

way I'm my own personal ethics committee," Dr Curtis says.

An increasing aversion among many of today's researchers to animal experimentation may lead to more rather than less self-testing. Maureen Robertson devised her own research project for her master's degree in pharmacology and plant chemistry from Strathclyde university after discovering that all the department's suggestions involved animals at some point.

Mrs Robertson, a member of Niche (the Network of Individuals and Campaigns for Humane Education), used her own blood to measure the action of a group of plant compounds on the coagulation process. "I used a syringe to take 20ml of blood three times a week for about ten weeks. It didn't

hurt. I just felt relief that I was doing that instead of something involving an animal's death."

Ronald Mann, a former member of the Committee on Safety of Medicines and currently director of a drug safety company, remains sceptical about self-testing. "It's not particularly common and it's not particularly commendable. You have to go back some time to find the classic examples. Drug development nowadays is done in highly controlled conditions, using carefully selected volunteers. It can be dangerous to start tossing the stuff down yourself. It's not reasonable, it's not objective."

● *Hair Soup* will be shown on ITV on September 29 at 7.30pm, except for the Thames TV region, where it will be shown on October 2 at 12.10am.

## The tooth, the whole tooth ...

A look at the routes of holistic dentistry

WHEN you open your mouth you reveal more about yourself than you might think, according to Jorgen Steen Hartz, a Danish holistic dentist who will be explaining his approach at the Healing Arts exhibition in London's Royal Horticultural Halls this weekend.

Dr Hartz says that not only can your teeth and gums reveal your general state of health, but other complaints can be cured by correct attention to them.

An initial consultation at his dental practice just north of Copenhagen would take approximately 90 minutes and cost about £60. He would familiarise himself with your lifestyle, eating habits and any physical or psychological problems you might have. He might relax you with cranial osteopathy — a head massage which renders injections unnecessary — or put electric probes into your mouth and measure the current created by metallic fillings. "If you have a current above 3 microamps, you have a battery in your mouth," he says. "The saliva becomes the battery acid, the teeth the electrodes and the metal ions leak out of the fillings and go straight to the brain."

Holistic dentists believe that many physical problems can be caused by teeth and gums. "Each tooth is linked to a specific meridian in the body, and an imbalance in the one creates disturbances that affect the other. So an imbalance in the colon can cause disturbances in the sixth and seventh teeth which can lead to toothache, decay or gingivitis."

Unlike most British dentists he advises against "too effective tooth-brushing", and suggests using bicarbonate of soda rather than toothpaste, "to make the mouth more alkaline."

He also advises his patients to eat the sort of diet he feels the teeth dictate. "About one eighth meat — because we have four canine teeth — and the rest grains, for our cow-like molars to chew, and fruits and vegetables, for our rabbit-like front teeth."

The British Dental Association retains "an open mind". Bryan Harvey, its scientific advisor, says: "The mouth can reflect the state of the body in certain extreme circumstances — very red, puffy and bleeding gums can be a sign of leukaemia. But holistic medicine won't cure active dental disease."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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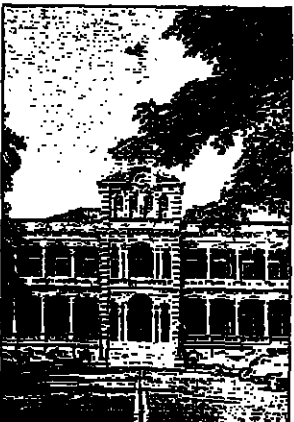
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TODAY'S QUESTIONS  
1 What day and date will the

### Miles of beach

Honolulu is the capital of the state of Hawaii — but it is not on Hawaii island. It is on a smaller island to the north, called Oahu, which means "the gathering place" — and it is here that millions of visitors gather from all over the world.

You are in the tropics here, where the days are sunny and the nights warm, and the trade winds freshen the air. In Honolulu you can see the Iolani Palace built by King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands, and a few miles to the west a more famous historic sight — Pearl Harbor, where the Japanese air attack brought the United States into



King Kalakaua's palace

the war in 1941. But the main goal of the tourists on this island is the 2½-mile-long Waikiki beach, and all the exotic nightclubs and restaurants in the town behind it. North of Honolulu, the Polynesian Cultural Centre, has displays of the traditional life of the islands, while along the coast there are many more beaches with swimming, snorkelling and surfing. Hawaii island offers, above all, volcanoes. At Kaimua Beach Park, there is a beach of jet black sand, fringed by palm trees. There are fine beaches and wonderful scenery on all the other islands, and the little island of Lanai proposes the delights of the world's largest pineapple plantation.

UNITED AIRLINES

The advice that sugar is for sportsmen can confuse health enthusiasts

## Sweeter side of an athlete's diet

There is little mystery to the best sporting diet. Athletes should follow the same healthy eating recommendations as the rest of us: a diet rich in starchy foods such as bread, pasta, rice and potatoes, fruit and vegetables, providing fibre, vitamins and minerals with only small amounts of fatty foods. Sugar levels should be kept low.

The significant difference, according to Jane Griffin, dietitian to the British Olympic team, is the higher energy requirements that elite athletes need to maintain their training programmes and sporting performance.

For example, a cyclist in the Tour de France, one of the most gruelling endurance tests, needs to eat at least 6,000 Kilojoules (or Kcal) — the correct term for what most people call "calories" — a day, while an average man should eat 2,500 Kcal a day.

For many athletes, this means raising the carbohydrate intake to at least 500 grams a day, equivalent to about ten baked potatoes, or 50 slices of bread. The problem for the athlete is managing to eat such a volume of food in a busy training and work schedule. "The only practical way to get it all in is to rely on a combination of foodstuffs including sugar products," says Dr Steve Wootton, a lecturer in human nutrition at Southampton University.

The role of sugar in the diets of elite athletes has opened the door for confectionery and soft drinks companies to claim or imply that sugar is desirable for all sporting activity. Such promotion confuses healthy eating advice, according to Action and Information on Sugars, a voluntary network of health professionals, which this week staged a conference exploring the relationship between sugar and sport.

Mrs Griffin described trying to wean 13-year-old gymnasts at the other end of the calorie requirement scale off a diet of Mars bars and Coca-Cola.

Sugary foods and drinks are commonly portrayed as providing a quick energy fix if taken just before exercise. Yet the conference heard that there is no evidence for this. In some studies, performance was decreased, although in others, when athletes fasted overnight, a quick shot of carbohydrate appeared to help



That's good: a sugar drink refuels footballer John Barnes.

performance. It makes no difference to the muscles whether their glucose energy comes from starchy or sugary foods, although the rate at which different carbohydrates can be utilised by the body varies, and is known as the glycaemic index.

Athletes are advised to refuel on high and medium glycaemic foods. Here a sports dietitian can help by working out the best diet to suit an athlete's particular sporting activity, taste preferences and lifestyle.

For the rest of us, the picture is far simpler. We are, on the whole, a nation of armchair athletes. Half the adult population is overweight, and a third of men and half of

women aged over 40 are unfit to walk at a brisk pace for any distance, according to latest statistics quoted by the community and sports dietitian Karen Reid. Her main concern is to encourage people to increase their activity levels without increasing their energy intake.

For recreational athletes taking part in a sporting activity once or twice a week, her advice is to stick to the general healthy eating recommendations. "Most people doing sport at a recreational level do not need to increase their energy intake to any significant extent," she says. The 13 teaspoons of sugar in a single can of Lucozade are equivalent to the daily maximum amount

of sugar recommended by government guidelines on healthy eating. Instead of confectionery and soft drinks, her recommendations for home-made sporting snacks include slices of bread and fruit such as bananas. To replace lost fluids, she advocates water rather than sweetened sports drinks.

Her views on replacing lost fluids echo the advice given to the American and Canadian teams at this summer's Olympics. "Bottled water. Don't leave the village without it," ran the Canadians' poster advice. In the American camp, boxes of the sports drink Powerade, donated by Coca-Cola, lay trampled.

However, Ron Maughan, from the University Medical School in Aberdeen, who has carried out trials on sports drinks, is convinced they can play a vital role in overcoming the two factors that can have a disastrous effect on endurance: dehydration and a fall in blood-sugar levels, and dehydration.

Developed from rehydration fluids for babies with diarrhoea, isotonic and hypotonic drinks such as Lucozade Sport, Gatorade and Isotone are formulated with sugars and salt to provide fluid and energy in a rapidly absorbable form. "For top-class athletes this could be the difference between winning and losing," Dr Maughan says.

The Irish Olympic team was advised to use such drinks. Twenty-two cans a day of Coca-Cola's Aquarius was the recommendation, providing seven litres of fluid. In hot conditions, this amount of liquid is essential, but there is no doubt that consuming sweetened drink this frequently could have damaging effects on dental health.

Dr Maughan is sure the evidence will convince more and more sporting bodies to recommend sports drinks, although he warns that not all are well formulated.

Action and Information on Sugars is concerned about their promotion to the public, particularly young people. "Our advertising and sports sponsorship encourages more people to take part in sport," claims SmithKline Beecham, which makes Lucozade.

SUE DIBB

● The author is the co-director of the Food Commission.











# Gas is naturally greener

Clean and familiar, gas is the fuel of the future, Vaughan Freeman says

The motoring fuel of the future is already here. It's called petrol. And it's already in your breakfast egg. While engineers worldwide wrestle with more environmentally friendly alternatives to petrol, from battery-powered cars to vehicles that run on anything from methanol to sugar, the final solution could be much closer to home.

British Gas is now spending £1 million a year developing vehicles that run on natural gas. This month it tripled the number of gas-fuelled vehicles in its national fleet to 300.

The company has already converted Rover Maestros and Leyland Daf vans. Most of the newest additions are 1.4-litre Ford Escort vans and two-litre Ford Transits.

The natural-gas test vehicles start next month at the first conference and exhibition in the United Kingdom on natural-gas vehicles (NGV).

The arguments for natural gas are strong. Compressed and stored in the vehicle in pressurised tanks, natural gas is less polluting than petrol and more readily available than alternatives. An estimated 1.5 million vehicles are already in service worldwide.

Vehicles that now run on petrol or diesel can be easily modified to run on natural gas alone, or adapted to "dual-fuel" running. In Scotland, for instance, British Gas test vehicles are running on diesel and gas.

Filling up is the same as with petrol or diesel. Using a fast-fill pump, the driver simply pulls up to the correct

filling point, attaches the nozzle and waits to pay.

In America, where about \$25 million (£15m) is being spent annually researching the use of natural gas, engineers are becoming increasingly convinced it is the answer. Some 500 gas filling points are already open in America. Carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by as much as 30 per cent compared with petrol, and exhaust carbon monoxide can be reduced by more than 70 per cent.

Lead, sulphur and hydrocarbon, which cause street-level pollution, are almost non-existent in the exhaust of cars running on natural gas.

British Gas believes the fuel will prove particularly attractive to managers of company car fleets where the vehicles return to a central depot at night to refuel.

Because the gas is slower burning than petrol, it is not as harmful to engines, and researchers believe 50,000-mile service intervals may eventually be feasible.

Fleet managers in America, Canada and New Zealand report significant savings, with the bonus that the fuel is virtually impossible to pilfer.

The engines are quieter and smoother than either petrol or diesel and start more easily in cold weather. What are the vehicles like to drive? Mike Wilton, public relations officer of British Gas, says: "The feedback from our people driving the vans is very positive. They report that it is quite difficult to spot the difference between the gas vans and regular vehicles, except that the gas vans are



Plugged in: filling a vehicle with natural gas is as easy as with petrol, but there are very few pumps yet in operation

smoother, quieter and easier to operate. The main obstacle is refuelling. At present British Gas has refuelling stations at four depots and is about to double that number.

For companies willing to experiment with natural gas vehicles, pumps are being made available. Mr Keith Nelson, NGV national marketing manager at British Gas, says: "Fleet operators close to British Gas filling stations will now be able to carry out their NGV fuel

trials without incurring the added cost of their own refuelling equipment in the early stages."

In America, Chrysler has developed a natural-gas-powered five-litre V8 engine and says the range is about equal to a vehicle with an 11-gallon petrol tank.

Ford in America is building Crown Victoria sedans (large limousine-size saloons) which can travel up to 170 miles on the two tanks of compressed gas fitted in the boot. British Gas is confident that

the fuel will prove attractive, especially to coach and bus fleet operators, but there is a problem to be resolved before a wider motoring market is attracted.

The conundrum will be familiar to petrol companies, who five years ago pondered whether to introduce unleaded petrol pumps at their forecourts when just a few cars needed the fuel. The alternative was to wait until demand increased before supplying it. Texaco then took the bull by the horns to become the first

important fuel supplier with an unleaded pump at every garage.

Supporters of natural gas must wait and see if supplies of the fuel make the vehicles more popular, or if a sudden surge of gas-powered vans and cars puts pressure on petrol firms to add gas pumps to their forecourts.

● The Combustion Engineering Association conference on natural-gas vehicles will be held on October 13 at Church House conference centre, Westminster, London SW1.

## LYNDON AND THE WOMEN

### Has feminism got it wrong?

● Feminists of the New Left appropriated the language of class antagonism... and misapplied it to political and personal relations between men and women.

● The women's movement [has been left with]... the lingo of totalitarian intolerance with which to support the claim that women, uniquely, were the victims of disadvantage.

● Men have come to be the butt of a universal prejudice, voiced by influential figures and sanctioned by a general consent.

SUCH are the views of Neil Lyndon, whose new book, *No More Sex War*, to be published next Monday, has angered women, including Nicola Lawson ("haffling"), and Clare Short (Lyndon must be "uncomfortable with masculinity").

YOU can hear Lyndon put his views at first hand and see him questioned by two leading women writers. Simply return the coupon below for tickets to the debate on women, at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London, on October 6 at 7.30pm. Chaired by Melvyn Bragg, the speakers will be Neil Lyndon, seconded by Kenneth Minogue, and Yvonne Roberts, seconded by Beatrix Campbell.

## THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

Please send me ..... invitation(s) at £10 (students & OAPs £5) each for the women debate on October 6.

NAME ..... ADDRESS ..... POSTCODE .....

I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore

Value £ ..... Cheque number ..... (Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Access/Visa card Number .....

Expiry date ...../...../.....

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Post coupon and remittance to: The Times / Dillons Women Debate

Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ

To reserve your tickets - £10 (students & OAPs £5) - please call today at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ 071-915 6612; fax 071-580 7680, or complete the coupon and post it to Dillons with your remittance.

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Ticket number ..... Date sent .....

## LEGAL NOTICES

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re  
MAXWELL COMMUNICATION CORPORATION INC. d/b/a  
Debtors.

Chapter 11  
Case No. 91-15741 (TLB)  
Jointly Administered

NOTICE OF OCTOBER 30, 1992 DEADLINE AS TO THE LAST DATE TO FILE PRIORITY CLAIMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS BASED ON UNEXPIRED LEASES AGAINST MAXWELL COMMUNICATION CORPORATION PLC

TO: ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WITH PRIORITY CLAIMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS BASED ON UNEXPIRED LEASES AGAINST MAXWELL COMMUNICATION CORPORATION PLC


PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 16, 1991 the "Petition Date", Maxwell Communication Corporation, debtor and debtor in possession ("MCC" or the "Debtor") filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the "Bankruptcy Court"). On December 17, 1991, MCC filed a petition with the High Court of Chancery, Chancery Division, Companies Court in London, England, seeking an order of administration pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986 of Great Britain. On December 20, 1991, that petition was granted and Andrew Mark Homan, Colin Graham Bird and Jonathan Guy Anthony Phillips were appointed as joint administrators (the "Joint Administrators") for the Debtor, MCC continues in the possession of its property and the management of its business as a debtor in possession under the governance of the Joint Administrators.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order dated September 15, 1992 requiring all persons and entities, including, without limitation, individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates, trusts, unions and governmental units, EXCEPT THOSE PERSONS AND ENTITIES DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS A THROUGH D BELOW, to file a claim against MCC based on a pre-Petition Date priority claim under 11 U.S.C. Section 543, 11 U.S.C. Section 547, 11 U.S.C. Section 548, 11 U.S.C. Section 549, 11 U.S.C. Section 550, 11 U.S.C. Section 551, 11 U.S.C. Section 552, 11 U.S.C. Section 553, 11 U.S.C. Section 554, 11 U.S.C. Section 555, 11 U.S.C. Section 556, 11 U.S.C. Section 557, 11 U.S.C. Section 558, 11 U.S.C. Section 559, 11 U.S.C. Section 560, 11 U.S.C. Section 561, 11 U.S.C. Section 562, 11 U.S.C. Section 563, 11 U.S.C. Section 564, 11 U.S.C. Section 565, 11 U.S.C. Section 566, 11 U.S.C. Section 567, 11 U.S.C. Section 568, 11 U.S.C. Section 569, 11 U.S.C. Section 570, 11 U.S.C. 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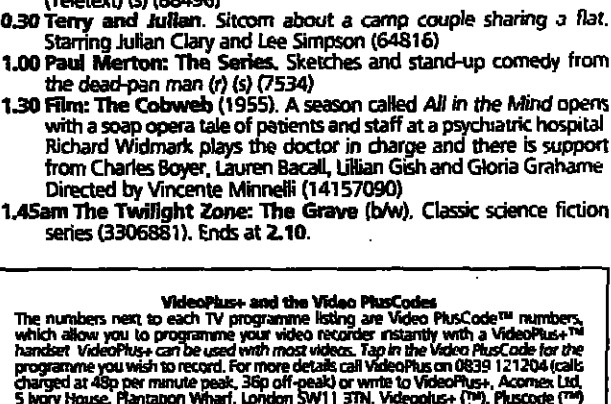
**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** (5-436729)  
9.25 **Schools** (88784187)  
12.00 **Camargue**. Second part of a documentary on the wetland in southern France. Much of the wildlife has disappeared yet little is being done to save the ecological haven (1) (5) (92187)  
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Robin Williams is today's guest (1) (8) (485)  
2.00 **I Love Lucy** (44w). Classic American comedy. Lucille Ball butters-up an influential columnist (4212)  
2.30 **Filme Mista Hari**. Dated but still watchable story of the first world war spy (Greta Garbo) who used her feminine wiles to extract secret information. Directed by George Fitzmaurice (95788670)  
4.05 **Zeno is Smoking**. Hilarious animation from Hungary (62-42901)



**Marking time: quizmaster Richard Whiteley, right (4.15pm)**

4.15 **Countdown**. Grand final of the words and numbers quiz introduced by Richard Whiteley with Simon Williams and Jenny Hanley (5) (3155699)  
5.00 **Traveller's Tales: South of the River**. Brian Thompson, on Africa's Senegal river, discovers a people of grace and beauty (1) (Teletext) (4692)  
6.00 **Blossom**. Comedy about a teenage girl in an otherwise all-male Los Angeles household (5) (583)  
6.30 **Happy Days**. Nostalgic comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee, starring Tom Bosley and Henry Winkler. (Teletext) (835)  
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (Weather) (92123)  
7.50 **First Reaction**. Bill Haggerty, editor of *The People*, assesses whether Granada's drama *Hostages* invaded privacy (3) (338583)  
8.00 **Brookside**. Merseyside housing estate drama. (Teletext) (5) (1748)  
8.30 **Dispatches Special**  
● **CHOICE**: As Labour prepares for next week's Blackpool conference, Vincent Hanna invites party stalwarts to recommit to about the general election defeat. This they do very effectively, with Bryan Gould and John Prescott well to the fore in lambasting the campaign strategy. Prescott says there was too much presentation and too little substance. Gould thinks that the politicians in the party handed too much control to the backroom "professionals". One of the latter, Glens Thornton, reckons Labour could still have won if the party had paid more attention to feedback from the constituencies. It is a lively dust-up which will probably have many echoes in Blackpool, even if the programme makes the huge and questionable assumption that the election was won and lost in the final nine days (3583)  
9.00 **Garden Club**. The team visits Durham. (Teletext) (5309)  
9.30 **Chers**. Sam (Ted Hanson) is telling little white lies. Will Diane (Shelley Long) mind? (1). (Teletext) (35816)  
10.00 **60 Minutes**. The first of the night, in a Miami hospital

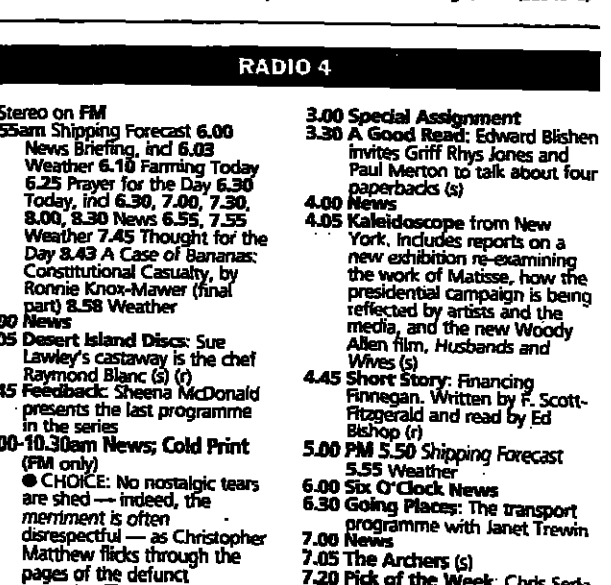


PTN Morning News with Tim Neilson (68539). Ends at 6:00

10.40 (979529:  
11.10 7.00 Gle

[illegible]

2.30 **CinemAttractions** (6849775) 3.25  
Night Beat (7223539) 4.20-5.30 Film: The  
Crowd Roars (2386959)



magazine *The Sketch* with former members of its staff. On any glossy magazine cover, you find little-tattle about the well-bred and hyphenated, the black tie and long white glove brigade. They were, says Matthew, like people trapped for ever in a cruise liner. The magazine itself? "The one that was *Empire*", says John Bown, a novelist now, but then a humble editorial assistant for *The Picture Post* (LW only).

0.05 *The Picture Post* (LW only)

0.15 *The Picture Post* (LW only), by John Buryan (LW only)

0.20 *Woman's Hour* from Belfast. The folk singer Maggie Boyle presents extracts from BBC radio and television (S).

8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Blandy is joining us from Chelmsford, Essex, by Rosie Boycott, editor of *Esquire* magazine, Patricia Hewitt, deputy director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, Sir Peter Parker, businessman and Dr Madden Pine, president of the Adam Smith Institute (S).

8.50 *Any Questions?* with Robin Lucas

9.15 *Kaleidoscope*, from Peter Hall talks to Paul Allen about his life and work (S).

9.45 Letter from America by George F. Will, on the weather (S).

10.00 *The World Tonight* with Richard Kershaw (S).

**8.00** The Firm: Patriot Games starring Harrison Ford. Ind. 11.00 News  
**1.30** The Natural History Programme  
**2.00** You and Yours  
**2.25pm** The Food Programme: Denis Cooper returns with a new series. 12.55 Weather  
**4.00** The World at One  
**4.40** The Archers (c) 1-1.55 Shipping Forecast  
**6.00** News; Classic Serial: Fero Gorki. Second of a four-part adaptation of Balzac's novel (S)  
17.00 R at Bedtime: Talking at the Gates by James Campbell Read by John Branwell (Final part) (S)  
**7.00** Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news (S)  
**7.10** The Financial Week with Heather Payton  
**11.45** Noas's Archive: With the help of the BBC sound archives, traveller Christina Dowell recalls her adventures with animals (C)  
**12.00** 12.43am News, Ind. 12.27 Weather. 12.33 Shipping Forecast. 12.43 World Service (LW only)

**REQUENZES:** Radio 1: 1053kh/289m; 1089kh/275m; FM-97.6-99.8  
Radio 2: FM-88.90-92. Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4. Radio 4: 1584kh/127m;  
2.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kh/1433m; 909kh/1333m. LBC: 1152kh/127m;  
3.73. Capital: 1584kh/127m; 909kh/1333m. GLR: 1458kh/206m; FM 94.9-  
96.8. Virgin: 1584kh/127m; 909kh/1333m. CBeebies: 1584kh/127m; FM 94.9-

100-102.



## TODAY IN BUSINESS

### DETHATCHED



Britain's rigid labour market has become more flexible as the unions withered during the Thatcher years  
Page 23

### SPRING TIME

Spring Ram has again bucked the depressed conditions, as strong growth in exports boosted first-half profits  
Tempos, page 20

### IN LIMBO



Canary Wharf's future is in the government's court after the project's bankers decided not to pursue an American bid  
Page 20

### PORTFOLIO

Portfolio expands from Monday into a seven-day chance to win: £2,000 each day in *The Times* and £5,000 in the *Sunday Times*.

### TOMORROW



Alan Bowkett, the chief executive of Berriford, is not afraid to risk his own money in the company he runs, having already invested more than £1 million

### THE ROUND

US dollar 1.7070 (-0.0025)  
German mark 2.5409 (-0.0234)  
Exchange index 83.1 (-0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1936.7 (+34.9)  
FT-SE 100 2621.2 (+40.7)  
New York Dow Jones 3292.74 (+14.05)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18609.95 (+327.23)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 5%  
3-month interbank: 5 1/8%  
3-month eligible bills: 5 1/8%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 3 1/8%  
3-month Treasury Bill: 2.90-2.95%  
30-year bonds: 9 7/8-9 7/16%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
£ \$1 7103 £ \$1 7085  
£ DM2 8310 £ DM1 4865  
£ Sfr2 2353 £ Sfr1 2060  
£ FF6 7820 £ FF5 6530  
£ Yen206 42 £ Yen120 66  
£ Index 83.1 £ Index 61.6  
ECU 20.776293 SDR 02.842638  
£ ECU1 288178 £ SDR1 186749  
London Forex market close

### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$348.90 PM \$348.25  
COM \$348 10-348.60  
\$203.80-204.30  
New York:  
Comex \$ 348 35-348.85\*

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20 45/bbl (\$20.55)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.9 August (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

Blue Arrow head acted in a way that was 'clearly not acceptable' for someone in authority

## Heseltine to press for ban on Berry

By GEORGE SIVELL

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, is to seek through the courts the disqualification of Antony Berry, the former chairman and chief executive of Blue Arrow, as a company director.

The move follows publication yesterday of the long-awaited 500-page report into Blue Arrow. It covers the December 1988 £25 million loan by Blue Arrow to a company controlled by Peter de Savary relating to a property transaction at Canary Island, Essex, the financing of the Blue Arrow Challenge attempt to win the America's Cup yacht race for Britain; property transactions in Portugal; and share dealings in Tottenham Hotspur, of which Mr Berry is a director.

Of Mr Berry, the report says his "acts and omissions" were "clearly not acceptable conduct for someone in a position of authority in a public company". The inspectors say Mr Berry "fully co-operated with our inquiry" but add "there are a number of occasions where we have not accepted Mr Berry's evidence either because, in our view, it was not credible or because it was contrary to other evidence which we have accepted".

A spokesman for Mr Berry said he would contest the decision to seek a disqualification during the legal process. The DTI said yesterday that the disqualification procedure is lengthy. Mr Berry has not yet been sent the summons to which he is entitled to respond under an exchange of affidavits. This leads to a first hearing in the High Court before a registrar. He can

either deal with the matter or adjourn it to a hearing before a judge. Yesterday's report will count as admissible evidence in the proceedings.

Mr Berry's advisers stated: "The inspectors have, unfortunately, made unjustified criticisms of Mr Berry. Their report contains insinuation and innuendo which is wholly unsupported by any evidence. In particular the most serious criticisms levelled against Mr Berry, namely that on a number of occasions he deliberately misled the board are unsupported by any evidence and are unreasonable."

Norman Tebbit, the former cabinet minister, was a non-executive director of Blue Arrow. The report says he, and other non-executives, behaved responsibly and honourably.

Of the £25 million loan, the inspectors say: "Our inquiry into Blue Arrow has not disclosed any fraud or impropriety concerning the Canvey transaction. We are satisfied that it was a genuine commercial transaction and was offered in good faith by Mr de Savary to Blue Arrow."

The report accuses Mr Berry of deliberately making two misleading statements to the board concerning the Canvey transaction, of concluding the transaction despite the absence of board approval and without authority. He is also accused of deliberately omitting to inform the board about a revision to an agreement over the Blue Arrow Challenge, the attempt to win the America's Cup yacht race for Britain.

The report's summary states: "Had Mr Berry told the

board at the 30 November 1988 meeting that on the previous day he had committed Blue Arrow to an estimated further £15 million expenditure on the America's Cup and was intending to defray this expense with profits from the Canvey project, which agreement needed to be signed within a matter of days, the board's reaction could have been very different. Mr Berry's failure to tell the board about the revision to the shareholders' agreement was deliberate and not because, as he contends, it was unnecessary to tell them, but because he knew that to tell them could affect his chances of a sympathetic response."

Mr Berry was criticised for not bringing to the board transactions in which he had a possible conflict of interest. He was also criticised over a private joint venture in Portugal, over dealings between Blue Arrow and Tottenham Hotspur and over dealings in Tottenham Hotspur shares.

Publication of the report was withheld at the request of Justice McKinnon who presided over the Blue Arrow trial. The report was signed by the inspectors in June 1991. The Serious Fraud Office ended Blue Arrow prosecutions on July 31 this year after criticism from the Court of Appeal, which said the first Blue Arrow trial had cost £40 million and was a disaster. The trial arose from events surrounding the £837 million rights issue by Blue Arrow to finance the Manpower takeover in 1987.

Too much power, page 25

## Rolls reversal hits Vickers

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THE slump in demand for Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars has wiped out profits at Vickers and forced the board to axe 950 jobs at its plant in Crewe, Cheshire, at a cost of about £12 million.

Interim pre-tax losses have been trimmed from £4.3 million to £4.1 million, but the exceptional change will not show up until the year-end figures. Shareholders have had their interim dividend cut from 3.7p to 0.5p by Sir Colin Chandler, the chief executive, to ensure sufficient cash is available for investment. Dividend growth would resume, "albeit from a lower level", when trading improved. The shares tumbled 12p to

67p within minutes of the news, but rallied to close just 1p lower at 78p.

The Rolls restructuring will reduce break-even volume to about 1,400 vehicles, half the equivalent level in 1990. Sir Colin said sales had fallen by 65 per cent over 18 months, with a heavy reduction in demand from Japan, ultimate home for almost 25 per cent of production in 1990.

Sir Colin said the business would have "considerable potential whenever the upturn in trading occurs".

All five of Vickers' other divisions traded satisfactorily, he said, although Cosworth's road engine volumes suffered from cutbacks at Ford and

demand was sluggish in the marine division.

In defence systems, hopes are high that the £520 million British Army order for the group's Challenger 2 tank will lead to large export orders, which "could have a significant, positive impact on the company's fortunes". But the necessary increase in marketing spend may mean profits slip a little in the second half.

Medical equipment profits suffered against an excellent year in 1991, but aerospace has been successful and is making higher profits.

Jobs cut, page 2  
Leading article, page 15  
Tempos, page 20

## Carsberg challenges insurance

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR



Sir Bryan: seeking change

THE "heavy automatic losses" suffered by hundreds of thousands of insurance policyholders when they cashed in policies early were questioned by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director general of fair trading, when he addressed the industry's representatives.

Sir Bryan, speaking yesterday at the annual conference of the Chartered Insurance Institute, said no other investment results in such losses. He suggested that the commission structure should be changed so that salesmen suffered as much as investors

for early encashments. This would ensure that the right products were sold.

The director general, who will shortly be commenting on proposed rules for the sale of investments, said that investors should be given a league table of the charges of different insurance companies.

Sir Bryan also said many investors have difficulty understanding investment products. He said he would be making recommendations for better consumer education.

Comment, page 23

## BA agrees French airline purchase

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has agreed to pay £17.25 million for a 49.9 per cent share in TAT, the French independent airline.

The agreement, which should be clear of regulatory hurdles by January next year, is one of the main planks in BA's strategy of owning a large slice of an airline in each of the world's big markets.

BA has already bought into Deutsche BA in Germany, is setting up Air Russia and is confident of obtaining approval to take a stake in USAir. With the TAT deal, only the rapidly expanding Far East market remains untapped. Talks are under way with Qantas, which is seeking private investors, and a number of other smaller carriers in the region.

BA is convinced that, with the single

European market only months away, it needs to break away from its dominant British base and the purchase of TAT, which could become total in five years, should provide the ideal launch pad into France and much of Europe.

TAT (Transport Aérien Transregional), formed in 1968, owns or leases 54 aircraft, which are on average only eight years old and which carry 3 million passengers a year. It flies to 32 destinations in France, 14 of which link with Paris. One of its most important routes is to Gatwick which it serves three times a day from Paris and ten times a week from Lyon. BA now plans to integrate those services with its own long-haul routes, flying via Gatwick to 35 worldwide destinations.

TAT made a small profit in 1991 but is expected to plunge into the red this year

as it sought to expand its network of routes and bought new aircraft. Its extensive French internal network of international services are based mainly at Paris Orly although its headquarters are in Tours, in the Loire Valley.

TAT is essentially a family airline, founded by Michel Marchais, who is now president, with his son Rodolphe as chief executive. The majority of the shares are owned by the Marchais family with a further 25 per cent owned by Crédit National bank and the rest among the company's 1,500 staff.

The agreement to buy is conditional on approval from the EC competition directorate and from the French transport department. If it goes ahead, and proves successful, however, BA also has conditional approval to acquire the remaining 50.1 per cent stake by April 1997.



Before the storm: Peter de Savary, left, acted in good faith in his dealings with Tony Berry over Canvey Island

## Barings is humbled by setback in Japan

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BARINGS, the dynamic banking group once described as the sixth great power in Europe, has been humbled by losses in its securities division, caused principally by the collapse of financial markets in Japan.

Profits for the six months to end-June slumped 51 per cent to £11.8 million from £24.3 million. The company is to make a further £10 million charge against profits in the second half to cover the cost of its empty office space.

Peter Baring, the chairman, would not reveal the size of the losses from the securities operations, which as recently as 1989 contributed more than half of total group profits.

However, trading volumes in the Japanese markets have fallen to 10 per cent of their peak, with some specialist markets such as warrants virtually dying.

Mr Baring said the Japanese agency business was still reporting record revenues but these were not adequate to produce a healthy profit because of the high level of expenses in the Tokyo office.

Staffing levels in Japan are being reduced by 15 from a total 275 employees in the country. A total 108 jobs are being cut across the group, mostly in London.

Barings is withdrawing from Scandinavian securities and is closing down its Frankfurt office. German markets will in future be covered from London. Mr Baring said securities markets had shown little revival since the half-year end and remained "not very exciting".

Barings' other operations enjoyed a more successful half year. The corporate finance team was kept busy working on acquisitions by Incheape, David S. Smith, and TI, the abortive Lloyds Bank bid for Midland Bank, and a Blue Circle rights issue.

Profits from banking and capital markets held up well, with no new loan loss provisions required. Dillon Read, the Wall Street investment bank where Barings has a 40 per cent stake, "made a significant contribution to the group result".

Funds under management remained stable but profits were down.

## Central banks intensify battle to save the franc

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE'S exchange-rate mechanism survived another day amid the first tentative signs that Europe's central banks may eventually succeed in their battle against the speculators.

The Bundesbank intervened heavily in foreign exchange markets, and some ERM member countries sought to relieve pressure further through cuts in interest rates or reintroduction and tightening of exchange controls.

The pressure on the French franc eased, as the currency closed at 3.4025 against the mark, an improvement of over a centime against Wednesday's close and comfortably ahead of the franc's ERM floor of FF3.4305.

Britain will not re-enter the ERM in the foreseeable future, according to John Major, who in his speech to Parliament yesterday called for a substantial change to the way the system operates. In an apparent swipe at Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, he said last week's run on sterling fol-

lowed "injudicious comments about realignment that should never have been made".

The ripples of Europe's currency crisis continue to be felt in almost each of the ERM's remaining member states. In Spain, the Madrid stock market crashed to the lowest since 1986, the general index falling 7.07 points to 198.15, after reintroduction of capital controls on bank lending to non-residents.

Ireland tightened exchange controls by suspending swap activities in points by non-residents, to help stabilise the punt within the ERM. The Netherlands and Belgium tried to ease the pressures in the system through reductions in unofficial money market rates. Switzerland, not an ERM member, reduced its discount rate by half a percentage point to 6 per cent.

In Germany, prospects of an early rate cut faced a setback on the news that two federal states, North-Rhine Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg, suffered a monthly 0.3 per cent rise in prices in August, much higher than

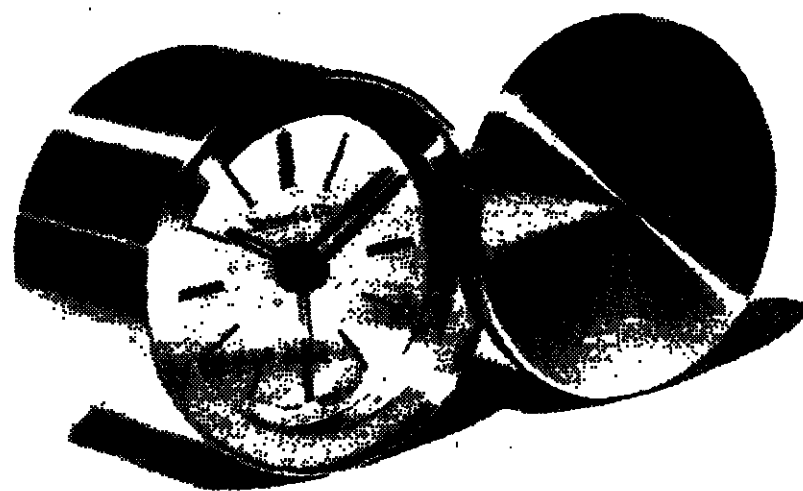
predicted. The news suggest that Germany continues to suffer from strong inflationary pressures.

The Bundesbank announced that it was intervening in the markets. The intervention, believed to have run into several billion marks this week, has gone far beyond what would normally have been required from the German central bank.

In Bonn, government spokesmen were denying rumours that Germany was about to ditch some of its less enthusiastic European "partners" in favour of an inner-core of fast-lane monetary union along with France and the Benelux countries. These rumours were intensified by newspaper reports in London and Bonn suggesting that President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl had agreed this week in Paris to press ahead with a fast-lane Franco-German monetary union in the light of growing British and Danish opposition to the Maastricht treaty.

Delors battle, page 12

## BUSINESS GIFTS



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## Abbey cuts its rate for new borrowers

ABBEY National, the second-largest mortgage lender, cut its base mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent to 9.95 per cent for new borrowers yesterday. The bank cut the rate for larger mortgages by just over 0.5 per cent (Lindsay Cook writes).

It also extended to January 31, 1994 its 1.75 per cent discount to first-time buyers borrowing less than 90 per cent of the value. This gives a minimum rate of 7.74 per cent on loans over £100,000. This is the ninth reduction since 1990 and Abbey borrowers with the average £55,000 loan have seen payments fall by £200.

Cheltenham & Gloucester, the sixth-largest society, has launched a fixed-rate mortgage at 8.25 per cent for two years with no strings attached. There is a £100 application fee, but borrowers who agree to a personal interview in a C&G branch pay only £50. It is the lowest fixed-rate mortgage ever offered by the society.

Nationwide Building Society has cut its mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent to 9.95 per cent. The second-largest society has made its cut for new borrowers from Monday and for existing borrowers from November 1. Lloyd's Bank has cut its credit card rate from 1.9 per cent a month, an annual percentage rate of 25.3 per cent, to 1.8 per cent a month, or 23.8 per cent per annum. Its gold card rate is reduced from 19.5 to 16.7 per cent a year.

## Ricardo falls

Ricardo International's annual pre-tax profits fell from £4.65 million to £2.04 million. A final 3.8p dividend holds the total at 5.7p. It has allowed £320,000 to cover the departure of three directors.

## Pay raised

Sir Paul Girolami, one of Britain's highest-paid chairmen, received an 11 per cent pay rise last year. Sir Paul, head of Glaxo, received £1,185,727 for the year to June 30.

## Bennett loss

Bennett & Fountain Group made an annual pre-tax loss of £3.55 million (profits of £2.31 million). There is again no dividend.

## Harland review

Harland Simon, whose shares were suspended this month, has appointed an executive committee to review its prospects and finances.

## TV-am ahead

TV-am's interim pre-tax profit is increased from £6.7 million to £9 million. The dividend is held at 4p.

## Antofagasta dip

Antofagasta Holdings' interim pre-tax profits fell from £9.59 million to £8.83 million. The dividend is held at 6p.

# Government holds Wharf key as bid is rejected

By MATTHEW BOND

THE government again holds the key to Canary Wharf's future after the project's bankers decided not to pursue a bid put forward by a group of American investors led by Larry Tisch and Lewis Ranieri.

The rejection of the proposals, also backed by Paul Reichmann of Olympia & York, the developer, leaves the government with two key decisions to make: whether to move several thousand civil servants to Canary Wharf and take advantage of bargain basement rents, and spend more than £1 billion of public money on the Jubilee line extension.

By rejecting the Tisch/Ranieri proposals, the Canary Wharf bankers appear to be banking on the civil servants being relocated. The rents that the government would pay could be used by the administrators running the project to raise a new loan. This, in turn, would be used to meet the first two capital instalments required by the government's demand that about £400 million of the Jubilee line costs be met by the private sector.

For example, if the government agrees to take 500,000 sq ft at Canary Wharf at an average rent of £20 a sq ft over the period of a lease, the administrators could raise between £80 million and £90 million of new money. This

amount would go most of the way to meeting the £100 million cost of the first two instalments of the private sector contribution.

One of the reasons the 11 bankers to the project rejected the Tisch/Ranieri proposals at a meeting in New York on Monday was, according to one banking source, the fact that, in exchange for little more than the Jubilee line contribution, the group would receive all future growth in the project's income stream and growth.

"If they can get all the upside, why can't we?" the source asked.

The New York decision reversed an earlier vote in favour of the Tisch/Ranieri proposals in Toronto last week by five members of the banking syndicate.

The reversal of that decision at Monday's meeting suggests the banks are split on how to deal with Canary Wharf's future.

The syndicate's gamble that by meeting the agreed private sector contribution, the Jubilee line will actually be built, is, however, a big one. The imminent round of public-sector spending cuts could result in the project being cancelled altogether, regardless of whether the owner of O&Y comes up with any money.

## Chairman resigns at Amber Day

By MARTIN WALLER

PHILIP Green, the charismatic driving force behind Amber Day Holdings, the retail group that owns the What Everyone Wants budget clothing chain, has stood down as chairman and chief executive.

The move follows almost a year of stock market bear raids and disastrous publicity about the company and Mr Green's private business deals. His resignation accompanied a dire set of full-year figures from Amber Day, even falling short of the forecast made at the time of a profits warning three months ago.

Mr Green said his departure was prompted by the publicity, "much of which relates to me personally and to my family". He added: "It had become two and a half days a week working and two and a half days firefighting on issues that had nothing to do with the business."

Amber Day's share price, as high as 129p less than a year

ago, edged ahead 1p to 35p as the news of Mr Green's departure outweighed the figures. These showed pre-tax profits back from £10.1 million to £7.53 million in the year to August 1 despite a forecast in June that they would be no worse than in the previous year. A final 2p dividend makes a 3.1p total, against 2.7p.

Mr Green said he had invested £4 million in the business and retained a 10 per cent stake, worth £3.4 million at today's prices. The "continual barrage" of unsubstantiated reports had started in January, he said.

David Thompson, the finance director, who is standing in as chairman until a replacement can be found, said the distraction of the "witchhunt" against Mr Green had led to poor stock controls during the summer and a £3 million trading loss after the earlier profits warning.



Taking cover: More O'Ferrall, the billboard and bus shelter advertising contractor, raised pre-tax profits to £936,000 (£812,000) in the six months to June 30, despite lower operating profits in the UK and Ireland. Russell Gore-Andrews, the chairman, announced yesterday. A fall in interest payable to £857,000 (£1.6 million)

and a strong performance in Belgium compensated for a slump in operating profits from £1.3 million to £241,000 in the UK and Ireland. Turnover was static at £28.6 million (£28.8 million). Earnings per share and the interim dividend were unchanged at 2.1p and 3.2p respectively. The UK outlook remains uncertain.

## Watchdog nearer to formation

By LIZ DOLAN

THE establishment of an umbrella body to regulate the marketing of financial products came one step nearer yesterday with the publication of a consultative document.

Sir Brian Hayes, chairman of the Personal Investment Authority formation committee, said consumers would benefit from the replacement of several regulatory authorities by one organisation.

The body is likely to assume responsibility for the areas at present controlled by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation and the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Organisation. Some members of the Investment Managers Regulatory Organisation are expected to join.

But the real question is whether the financial services arms of the banks and building societies will join the PLA. Both groups have shown little enthusiasm.

## Food group thrives but issues warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

A WARNING that the effects of the recession could stay with the food retailing industry permanently has accompanied a resilient trading performance from William Morrison Supermarkets, the Yorkshire chain.

A £4.5 million interest swing, to earnings of £1.8 million, after last year's £98 million rights issue helped pre-tax profits to rise from £7.0 million to £36.2 million in the 26 weeks to August 1, and the interim dividend is effectively raised by 20 per cent to 0.16p.

Supermarket takings, inclusive of VAT, were up 17.1 per cent, a 4.3 per cent rise coming from existing units and the balance from new stores. But Ken Morrison, the chairman and chief executive, says that because of the low level of food price inflation, the rate of increase in staff costs was exceeding sales growth.

"I believe it is prudent to regard the present conditions

as likely to be with us permanently and to face up to the situation and manage our business accordingly," he says. "I think we've no reason to assume that we're in recession forever — but we've no reason to believe that it will go back to where it was."

As a result of the rights issue, borrowings at August 1 were £19.8 million and gearing just 5.7 per cent (48.6 per cent). Three new supermarkets were opened in the first half, and the rest of the financial year would see another three openings and the completion of extension work on two other stores. Mr Morrison said the expansion programme could be financed out of retained funds and existing borrowing facilities.

He said a slight improvement in gross margins was due entirely to a favourable change in the sales mix. Like-for-like margins had shown a slight decrease, a trend that was likely to continue.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Havelock seeks £2.9m via share placing

HAVELOCK Europa, the shopping group, is raising £2.97 million net via a placing of 10 million shares at 31p a share. The cash will help repair its financial position, and Sir Lewis Robertson, who is retiring as chairman at the end of the year, says he will be leaving a group with a solid balance sheet and a sound management.

New contracts have been won in a difficult market, and key customers, including Marks and Spencer and Boots, have continued their considerable interior fitting programmes. Havelock has been hurt by the recession and reports a reduced pre-tax loss of £1.6 million (£2.18 million loss) for the six months to end-June. The 1992 interim dividend has been passed. The second half is likely to be stronger than the first half, though the group gave warning that the continuing difficult trading climate will hit trading results.

## Inchcape drives in Japan

INCHCAPE, the international trading group, is setting up a joint venture with Peugeot to import and distribute Peugeot cars and spare parts in Japan. Together they will invest £9.4 million in Peugeot Japan, the present importer of Peugeot cars into the country. The restructured Peugeot Japan will also sell the new model, due to be unveiled in Europe next year. Peugeot has sold more than 25,000 vehicles in Japan since 1987. Peugeot Japan is 67 per cent owned by Automobiles Peugeot, 11.5 per cent each by Suzuki Motor Corp and Rover Japan, a subsidiary of British Aerospace, and 5 per cent each by Nissho Iwai and Seibu Motor Sales Co.

## Berkertex wins suitor

WILLIAM Baird, the textiles group that owns Brides International and Windmoor, has bought Berkertex, the bridal wear group, from the receivers for an undisclosed sum. The deal, which includes Genesis, a leisure business, is expected to secure the future of most of the 1,200 jobs under threat since receivers were appointed three weeks ago. The Berkertex flagship store in Bond Street, London, and its Nottingham store would continue operating, as would most of the group's department store outlets, said Christopher Morris and Roger Powdrill, joint administrative receivers from Touche Ross, the accountant. Berkertex operated 350 retail outlets in the UK and 26 in Spain.

## Headline sales surge

HEADLINE Book Publishing, the venture capital-backed start-up that claims to be Britain's fifth most profitable consumer book publisher, has increased interim pre-tax profits by 60 per cent to £504,000 for the first half of the year. Tim Hely Hutchinson, the managing director, said the surge in profits was the result of a 20 per cent rise in sales in a generally flat book market combined with tight control of overheads. The pre-tax profit margin rose from 8.5 per cent to 11.4 per cent. Publishing sales in July and August were 34 per cent ahead of the same period last year. The interim dividend has been trebled from 0.5p to 1.5p, reducing cover to 2.2 times. Earnings per share were up 11 per cent 3.6p.

## Anglia lifts earnings

ANGLIA Television, winner of the Channel 3 franchise, raised pre-tax profits to £4.8 million in the half year to June 30, compared with £3 million in the six months to April 30 last year. The gain was almost entirely due to a sharp fall in the size of the Exchequer levy on advertising revenue, saving Anglia £2.7 million. The interim dividend is held at 2.86p. Turnover was little changed at £53.5 million (£52.2 million) and operating profits fell to £4.3 million (£5.4 million). Earnings per share were 7.04p (4.35p). Sir Peter Gibbins, chairman, said Anglia's 600-strong workforce had agreed to an 18-month pay freeze. Expenditure on own productions increased from £7.8 million to £12 million.

## Whitecroft warning

WHITECROFT, the building products, lighting and textiles group, has given warning of an expected £1 million pre-tax loss for the half year to September. It is selling its window and conservatory offshoots, which are expected to make a loss of more than £1 million in the first half. The sales will result in a £4 million write-off, to be included as an extraordinary item. There will also be an extraordinary item of £23.8 million, for goodwill previously written off and included to comply with accounting convention. There will be no interim dividend.

## Yule Catto advances

A STRONG performance in special chemicals enabled Yule Catto to overcome the tough trading conditions experienced by its building products division in the first half, to boost pre-tax profits from £9.9 million to £10.2 million. Earnings per share were 7.5p (7.2p) and the board is lifting the interim dividend from 2.5p to 2.5p a share. Chemicals sales and profits rose by 4 and 8 per cent respectively with improving trends in domestic and export markets, the business is expected to maintain higher levels of profitability in the months ahead.

## Vickers left shell-shocked by rundown at Rolls-Royce

INVESTORS may be forgiven a sense of déjà vu as Vickers follows British Aerospace with a batch of job losses in a key division, wiping out the rest of the group's profits, and with a dividend stock for shareholders.

After failing to unearth a partner for Rolls-Royce Motors, Vickers has further run down capacity at Crewe. The year-end bottom-line figure will look pretty bleak after the £12.5 million exceptional cost involved. The aim is to staunch the flow of cash from the motor group by cutting break-even point to 1,400 vehicles, half the 1990 level. Even on current sales figures, Rolls should be cash-neutral next year and breaking even by 1994.

Debt could be up to about £100 million by the end of the current year, but strip out rationalisation costs and a slowdown of about £25 million in advance payments, and the picture does not look too unhealthy.

The savagery of the cut in the interim dividend to 0.5p, demonstrating the board's determination not to see the aerospace and Cosworth divisions starved of cash, was chiefly responsible for the dismay registered by yesterday's initial 12p fall in the share price to 67p.

With the losses stemmed at Rolls, Vickers ought to be shooting for £19.3 million pre-tax in 1993, and maybe £30 million in the following year, says Sandy Morris at County NatWest. That would



Stemming losses at Rolls: Sir Colin Chandler, chief executive of Vickers

reduce the 1994 prospective multiple to about 10 at last night's 78p. All the shares need, to out-perform, is news of a tank order from the Middle East — or, of course, a bid. With all the pain now in the share price, predators may never have a better opportunity.

## Spring Ram

THE attractions of Spring Ram Corporation have been well known to the stock market for several years and

are reflected in its share price. Spring Ram is adored by the City in a month that has seen Britain's currency and its biggest manufacturer humbled, it is no wonder that any success story, however small, pulls in crowds of pin-striped admirers. Not that Spring Ram counts as small any more — it has long since graduated from the attention of the City's smaller company teams and in the first half of this year it passed the £100 million sales barrier. Exports led the way, with

growth of 48 per cent, but even in the UK, where market conditions could hardly be more difficult, kitchens grew by 19 per cent and bathrooms by 13 per cent. The growth means that Spring Ram is piling on UK market share.

First-half pre-tax profits grew by 13 per cent to £18.4 million, while the interim dividend is up by a fifth at 0.105p.

## United Newspapers

UNITED Newspapers' iron-fist control of costs in the six months to June, together with lower interest and reduced newspaper prices, has paid off in spades. In a newspaper and magazine market that is still being mauled, trading profits generated by United's Express Newspapers jumped by half to £14 million.

Regional newspaper interests were not as strong — trading profits edged up from £13.3 million to £13.8 million — and profits from information services and advertising periodicals were weak. But group pre-tax profits for the half year were still a respectable 20.2 per cent ahead, at £46.5 million. Lord Stevens, the chairman, is not banking on any

economic growth to help the rest of the year. Having seen the evidence in the first half of what a cost squeeze can do to the profits line, however, he promises more of the same in the second. That means maintaining (if not improving) market share and keeping purse strings tight.

The element of caution is clear from the maintained interim dividend of 7.5p. If, however, as United hints, second-half 1992 turns out to be stronger than second-half 1991, this year could see an upward nudge in the final dividend. That depends on feelings about 1993; given that the total dividend has been held at 21p a share since 1989, despite two successive profit dips, restoration of cover could prove to be the company's priority.

A net £6 million cash inflow from asset deals is likely in the second half, and there is the prospect of a profits contribution from the recently purchased Pedeca Publicaciones, of Madrid. PUNCH has gone, for which £1.05 million is taken against trading profits.

Net debt is marginally down from the £276 million level at the end of the previous half. Recognition that United's profits downturn has been arrested pushed the shares 16p higher, to 425p, yesterday. On year-end profit hopes of £98 million (£85.2 million) the shares are attractive on 13.6 times earnings, backed by a 6.6 per cent yield.

TEMPUS

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**APPLEYARD GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.75m (£1.5m)  
EPS: 2.2p (2.1p)  
Div: 2.6p (2.6p)

**ATLAS CONVERTING**  
Pre-tax: £2.3m (£3.1m)  
EPS: 18.4p (24.6p)  
Div: 7p (7p)

**BLACK (A&C) (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £254,000  
EPS: 11p (8.9p)  
Div: 4.25p (4.25p)

**CAVERDALE GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £272,000  
EPS: Loss 0.31p  
Div: Nil (nil)

**HAMPDEN GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £202,000  
EPS: 0.91p (0.77p)  
Div: 0.2p (0.2p)

**HAY (NORMAN) (Int)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £393,000  
EPS: Loss 1.8p  
Div: Nil (0.5p)

**RUTLAND TRUST (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £3.5m (£3.9m)  
EPS: 0.84p (0.88p)  
Div: 0.27p (0.27p)

**WHATMAN (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £4.5m (£4.4m)  
EPS: 13.56p (12.83p)  
Div: 3.1p (2.9p)

**TELEMETRIX (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £273,000  
EPS: Loss 1.6p  
Div: Nil (nil)

**SWP GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £30,000  
EPS: 0.1p (2.2p)  
Div: Nil (0.8p)

**ERA GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £1.55m  
EPS: Loss 2.07p  
Div: Nil (nil)

Turnover fell from £218.9m to £158.1m and operating profits from £3.98m to £3.4m. No signs of economic recovery.

Interim results. Orders in hand will ensure output is higher in second half. Prospects for 1993 are improving.

Last time's interim profit was £154,000. Turnover was steady at £3.7m. Trading conditions remain difficult.

Last time there was a profit of £247,000, with earnings per share of 1.87p. Some overhead costs are continuing to be reduced.

Last time's interim profit was £175,000. Trading conditions in Northern Ireland have worsened. Costs are being reduced.

Last time there was a profit of £285,000, with earnings per share of 0.4p. Relocation from Heathrow to Coventry now three months late.

Turnover down from £52.2m to £46.4m. Some transactions delayed because of volatile market conditions.

Policy of hedging currency exposure forward for up to two years has protected group from full adverse effect of extreme dollar weakness.

Exceptional costs of £2.9m were charged against restructuring, so reducing operating profits from £3m to £949,000.

Last time's profit was £226,000. Turnover fell from £10.3m to £7.7m. All companies profitable and current trading better.

Last time's loss was £395,000, with loss per share of 1.26p. Loss in first half is a normal seasonal feature of trading.



THE TIMES FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1992

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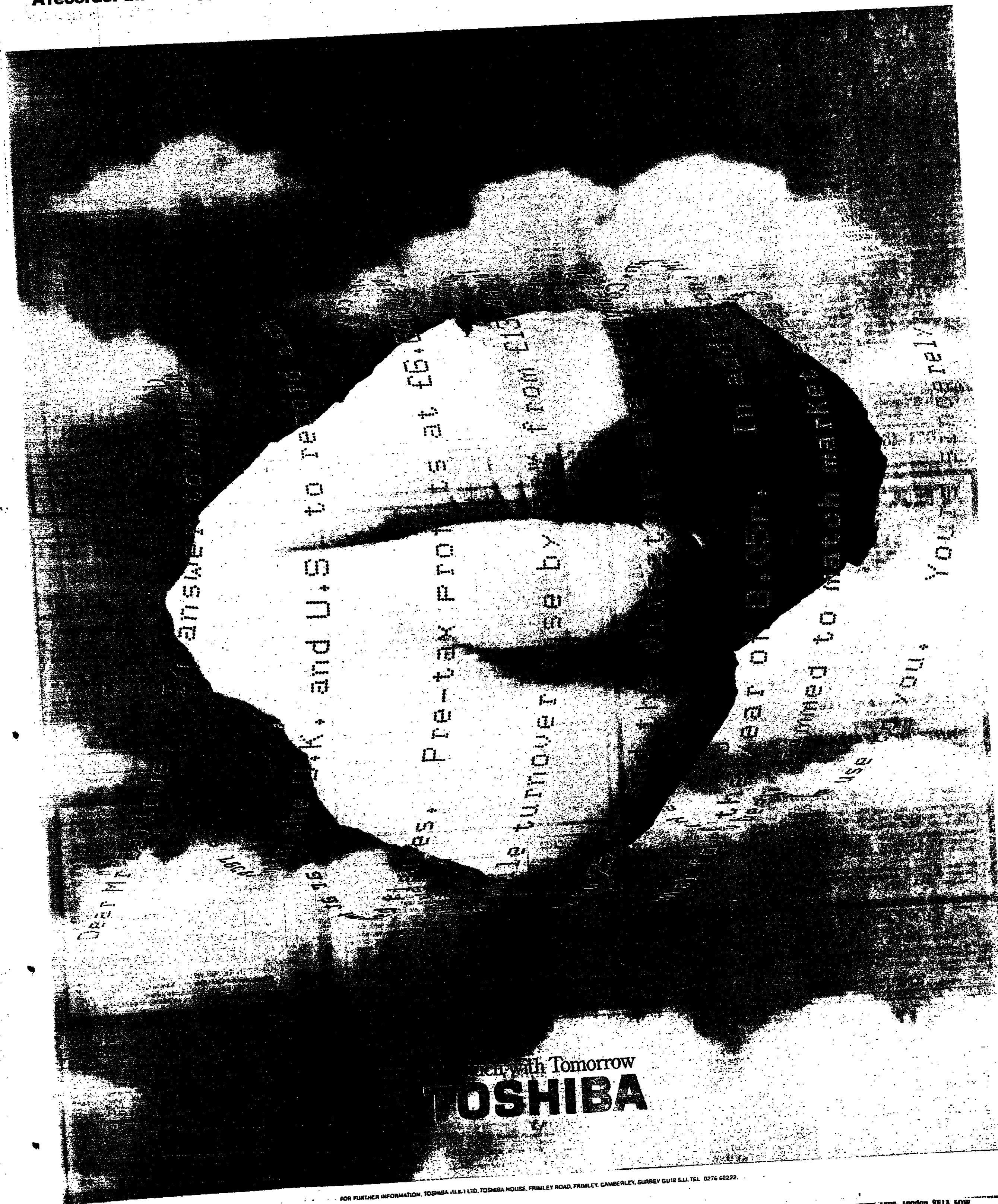
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# Bears maul anxious Allied-Lyons

The yen closed in Tokyo at ¥120.25 against the dollar, up ¥2.42, amid rising market expectations of a further cut in interest rates. Bank of Japan officials denied the necessity for such a move and economists agreed that the strength of the stock market, which gained 327.23 points to close at 18,609.95 yesterday in relatively strong trading, indicated that the yen's appreciation is a temporary phenomenon.

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## ISSUES

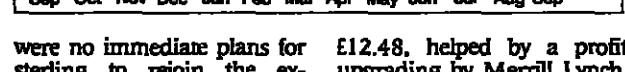


## BRITISH FUNDS

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BANK of NY	41 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	42 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Hanson Inc
Bankers Tr NY	62 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	67 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Home D
Barrett Banks	37	37	Homestead
Bausch & Lomb	53 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	52 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Moneway
Baxter Int'l	34 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	34 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Household
Beaumont Dickinson	75 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	79 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Maxson
Bell Atlantic	48 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	47 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Hummel
BellSouth	51 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	51 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	ITT Corp
Black & Decker	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Illinois 1
Block (H&B)	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	33 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	INCO
Boeing	35 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	35	Ingersoll
Borden	32 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Int'l. S

Int'l	50%	56%	Santa Fe S Pac	11%
Inds	17%	13%	Santa Fe Corp	58
	65%	61%	Seacorp	46%
	50%	51%	Schering Plough	39%
	44%	44	Schlumberger	66%
	21%	21	Scott Paper	38%
	63%	62%	Seagram	28%
Oil	67%	68	Sears Roebuck	41
	34%	34%	Shell Int'l	56%
Land	29	28%	Sherwin Wilms	27%
	18%	18%	Sirkin Corp	16%



**Racal Electronics** rose 2½

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**RISES:** Cable Wireless ..... 614p (+19p)

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101%	96%	Treat 4% 1996	101%	- 1/2	8.60	8.40		
105%	98%	Cover 10% 1996	105%	- 1/2	9.52	8.47		
113%	108	Exch 13% 1996	113%	- 1/2	11.65	8.69		
114%	109%	Treat 14% 1996	114%	- 1/2	12.19	8.69	28%	24%
119%	113%	Treat 15% 1996	119%	- 1/2	12.73	8.69	28%	24%

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49%	49%	Union Carbide	110%
49%	49%	Uniflex NV	45%
45%	46%	Union Camp	13%
51%	51%	Union Carbide	54%
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## COMMENT

## Sir Bryan keeps up the pressure

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the new director general of fair trading, has launched the OFT back into its long-running battle with the life assurance industry with renewed vigour. Too much of the argument has focused on the technicalities of detailed disclosure of commissions, costs and low early surrender values, and their effects on the dwindling numbers of independent life assurance brokers. Sir Bryan has switched the argument onto reform of selling in order to avoid some of the costs and penalties. There has long been an absurd contradiction within the industry. At its heart are sober actuaries and fund managers dedicated to protecting individuals and helping them to become rich slowly. At its sharp end is a selling system plagued with a get-rich-quick mentality and a force of tied agents with a turnover more than 50 per cent a year.

If only life assurance companies competed more for final consumers through value for money and less for distribution outlets via spiralling costs and commission rates, Sir Bryan argued in a speech to members of the industry yesterday, fewer people would be sold policies they could not or would not want to continue to maturity. Regulation and forced disclosure will have to start the ball rolling, but Sir Bryan offered an incentive. If competition on costs forced companies to share the burden of bad selling, they would ultimately gain as much as consumers.

Sir Bryan has yet to advise the Chancellor on the final proposals from the Securities and Investments Board, which chiefly follow the industry's line. If his ideas are anything to go by and the Chancellor backs him, the SIB will surely be back to the drawing board.

## Aerospace rethink

After collapsing 86p to 113p on Wednesday, BAe shares staged a 1.3p recovery yesterday, suggesting that some investors are taking a cooler look at long term prospects and concluding that the worst may be over. Such a judgment must be highly speculative, for when a company such as BAe delivers nasty shocks to the wealth of its shareholders in two successive years, its investment rating takes time to repair. But there is a case for thinking that the shares may have hit bottom. The whole group is now capitalised at little more than the value of last year's £430 million rights issue. BAe's defence systems, the core around which chairman John Cahill wishes to reconstruct the business, are by themselves capable of making trading profits of more than £500 million. What am I bid, Lord Weinstock? GEC would have little trouble financing a credible bid.

BAe's recent history shows that it has not always been wise to accept without question the views of the management. Most if not all of the senior directors did, however, buy shares after the plunge on Wednesday, showing commitment as well as motive to get the company right at last. For Mr Cahill, there are no sacred cows and further cost savings can be expected. Is there much downside on a price earnings ratio for 1993 of around one?

## A government-sponsored survey shows how the union organisation has withered during the Conservative years. Philip Bassett reports

In the political obituaries prompted by the Conservatives' dispatch of Margaret Thatcher, one achievement was universal: that she had tamed the trade unions. Her reshaping of Britain's industrial relations consensus may now be taken for granted, but behind it lies an undergrowth of opinion, assertion, belief and prejudice about what really has changed in British employee relations.

Yesterday produced further definitive evidence of what has gone on, and is probably still going on. The government-sponsored Workplace Industrial Relations Survey, first carried out in 1980, is one of the few widely accepted pieces of research about how industry uses and regulates its labour. The report of the 1990 survey charts in detail a decade of bewildering changes.

Staunchly neutral politically, its findings show how far the Conservative government achieved its aim of making the notoriously rigid UK labour market more flexible through a combination of economic, legal and social changes.

"So great were the changes," the survey says, "that it is not unreasonable to conclude that the traditional distinctive system of British industrial relations no longer characterised the economy as a whole." The survey is sponsored jointly by the employment department, the Acas conciliation service, the Economic and Social Research Council and the independent Policy Studies Institute. In the past, it has been used by the government to justify its labour market changes, and the latest will be no different.

Ministers will, in general, be delighted by its findings, particularly as the scope of the survey makes it so authoritative. It involved more than 4,700 interviews with more than 2,000 representative employers in the private and public sectors.

The survey confirms how savagely the trade unions have been hit. Union density — the proportion of employees who are members — fell from 58 per cent in 1984 to 48 per cent in 1990. Even in the public sector, which buttresses UK union



'I'm alright, Jack!': Peter Sellers characterising an intransigent shop steward in the 1959 film

membership, density is down from 80 to 72 per cent. In private-sector manufacturing it has dropped from 56 to 48 per cent, while in private services the level is even lower — down from 30 to 27 per cent.

Non-unionism — having no unions at all in the workplace — is sharply up. Now, 36 per cent of establishments have no unions, compared with 27 per cent in 1984. For white-collar employees, the figure is even higher, at 49 per cent. The survey says that while management hostility is apparent in about a third of non-union workplaces, disenchantment among employees with unions might be a greater factor.

The decline of union strength, and the subsequent reduction in the number of employers recognising unions for bargaining purposes, means that only a minority of employees are covered by collective bargaining. Among those working for large establishments — 25 employees and over — covered by the survey, about 8.4 million out of a total

of 15.3 million, or 54 per cent, still have their pay settled collectively by traditional bargaining. But as the 6.6 million employees, mainly in small workplaces, who were not covered by the survey are much less likely to be covered by collective bargaining, the proportion of workers whose pay and conditions are settled in this way may be less than 40 per cent.

Conservative legislation has brought about the virtual disappearance of closed shops — arrangements under which people's employment depended on their being union members. In mid-1984, between 3.5 million and 3.7 million employees were covered by closed shops. The 1990 survey estimates the number at a maximum of half a million, and the researchers believe changes in the law that came into effect after the 1990 study mean the next workplace survey will mark the complete end of the closed shop.

Across much of British industry,

strikes are largely a thing of the past.

Total stoppages, and non-strike action such as overtime bans, have fallen by more than half, though ministers will be less comfortable that strikes are more likely now to be supported by picketing than they were in 1984, the year of the miners' strike. Also, the level of secondary industrial action — workers not directly involved in a strike taking action in support — though low, affecting 4 per cent of workplaces, is no lower than it was eight years ago.

The government will also be unhappy that the much-vaunted move to pay bargaining at individual plant level has been largely illusory, and that the break-up of pay setting at national level has only moved the process as far down as companies.

These and similar findings ripple through into all aspects of the relations between employers and employees, from the continuing decline of the shop steward who so characterised industrial relations in the fifties, sixties and seventies —

witness Peter Sellers's Fred Kite in *I'm Alright, Jack* — to the declining number of employers (now down to 13 per cent) who are members of employers' organisations. That raises questions about the representativeness of such bodies as the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors, much as the Conservative government successfully questioned the representativeness of trade unions in the 1980s.

However, though the survey shows conclusively that there have been enormous changes in British industrial relations, it also shows that such changes have been led, though not wholly confined to, the private sector.

Despite the disciplines of privatisation, contracting out, agency arrangements and other measures, in the public sector they still do things more like they used to be done everywhere.

In the public sector, unions are still strong. Though they are recognised in only 87 per cent of workplaces, compared with 99 per cent in 1984, the drop is almost entirely accounted for by the government's withdrawal in 1987 of teachers' pay negotiating rights. In the public sector, multi-unionism — the proliferation of unions seen by many managers as one of the bane of British industry — is still commonplace, with an average of 3.3 unions in every public-sector workplace, compared with 1.7 in the private sector.

In the public sector, collective bargaining is still widespread, with 78 per cent of employees covered. In the public sector, too, there are still strikes: local government and higher education, not to mention the civil service, are now Britain's most strike-prone sectors. The gap between industrial relations change in the private and public sectors may be seized on by ministers as indicating the agenda for future change.

Whatever the fate of the Maastricht treaty, the EC will usher in many changes that might run counter to some of the deregulation, decentralisation, de-unionisation and deindustrialisation that the survey report charts.

But the survey team concludes that many changes that occurred in the 1980s are irreversible. That is a conclusion many employers and employees, in all industries and services, reached some time ago. Whether the changes sought by Margaret Thatcher are of real economic value will remain open to ideological dispute; but the impact of the 1980s means the world of the shopfloor has altered beyond recall.

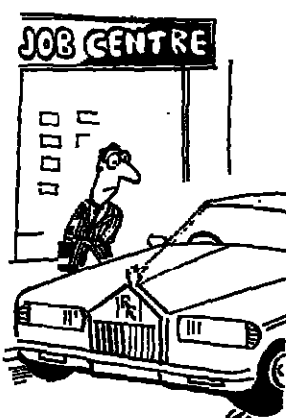
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Buerk makes waves

MICHAEL Buerk, the TV newsreader who presented yesterday's Cartier-sponsored Venture of the Year award at the Savoy, confessed himself torn between giving away the "management buyout award" or the "sellout award" when he came to presenting a prize to David Mace, managing director of Sea Life Centres. Mace has spent 13 years building up the group, Britain's leading developer of seaside walk-through aquariums, and after a management buyout from Norsk Hydro in 1987 had sold the company just the previous day to Vardon, the London Duncroft group. That deal was worth £9.9 million — compared with the £2 million buyout price — and Mace himself personally picked up just short of £1 million from the proceeds. Unabashed by Buerk's comments, however, Mace managed to look as delighted as the other six venture capitalist winners as he walked away from the ceremony clutching his Cartier boardroom clock and watch. The overall winners, incidentally, were Adrian Breger and Jamie Gibson of Breger Gibson, Welsh disposable nappy manufacturers.

## Smith on Sunday

TERRY Smith, the former head of research at UBS Phillips & Drew and author of the controversial *Accounting for Growth*, may have found a new home for his talents. He says he has been in talks that may lead to him turning City columnist, taking over the slot now occupied by actor Adam Faith on the *Sunday*. "I have spoken to them but I am still deciding," Smith says. Faith's relationship with the newspaper has been very bit as colourful as the one between Smith and his old employer — the paper was forced to pull his "Faith in a Million" get-rich scheme for readers earlier this year after the Securities and Investments Board intervened. The paper seems



fore Eurotunnel takes its first paying passenger. Sizewell is due on stream in 1994.

## Ecu winner

THE ecu may not be everyone's favourite currency right now but one person who remains an enthusiastic supporter is Bill Holmes, managing director of the European hall of California Software. The company specialises in adapting IBM mid-range computers for personal computers and for two years has been pricing its products in ecus. Holmes says that after initial resistance, so popular has the policy been that he has now persuaded even non-EC countries such as Sweden and Norway to pay him in ecus. "People can price the products in local currencies and they are totally protected from currency changes. They just don't realise how easy it is," Holmes raves. While his main aim is to neutralise currency gains, he says the exceptional fall of the pound through its exchange rate-mechanism floor last week resulted in large currency gains for his company.

## Same old Sizewell

NUCLEAR Electric is running advertisements in the trade press extolling its virtues. "One day, all power stations will be made this way," the copy runs. "On budget and ahead of schedule." The accompanying photograph is of the Sizewell B power station on the Suffolk coast. At this point readers with long memories could be forgiven for an abrupt double-take. Surely, it is not the Sizewell B, subject of agonising three-year public enquiry in the 1980s which made the project a byword for delay and bureaucratic encumbrance? The very same. A spokesman for the company explains: "Nuclear Electric is saying that it is on time and on budget because since Nuclear Electric was formed in 1989 it hasn't gone over budget." Construction should also be ahead of time, he adds. The explanation may not convince everyone but one person who is bullish is Nuclear Electric chairman John Collier. He apparently has a bet on with Eurotunnel's Sir Alastair Morton that Sizewell B will start generating electricity be-

## Why company pension schemes should not be allowed to die out

From Mr Roger Westwood  
Sir, David Blake's article "It's time to take our pensions out of the hands of employers" (Business Comment, September 18) raises some interesting suggestions for changes in pension provision. Doubtless, many of them will be thoroughly examined during the debate which will be engendered by the publication recently of the consultative document of the Pension Law Review Committee.

Mr Blake sets out to describe his ideal design for a pension scheme. Unfortunately, he does not fully answer the question "ideal for whom?" For employees, for employers? Mr Blake asks "what would we think if, when we started working for a company, the employer insisted that we deposit all our savings with the company?" In fact, this is a question employees no longer need to answer. For slightly more than four years employees have not been able to require their employers to join a company-sponsored scheme, or to stay in one.

Despite a multitude of com-

petitive personal pension schemes on offer as alternatives, millions of people have either chosen to stay in an employer-sponsored scheme, or to join one.

Whether the scheme is money purchase or final salary, people are members of company-sponsored schemes because they want to be. So why is it in their interest that these schemes, as Mr Blake puts it, be allowed to die a natural death?

There is no reason in principle why Mr Blake's ideal pension scheme should not be available to anybody who wants to buy it, but we fear that the underlying, and unacceptable, message in his article is that the ideal market for his ideal product is one from which all company-sponsored competition has been conveniently removed.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER WESTWOOD,  
President,  
The Society of Pension Consultants,  
Ludgate House,  
Ludgate Circus,  
EC4.

## Benefits of devaluation for British tourism

From Mr J.A. Bodlender  
Sir, In 1985, when the dollar and the pound virtually reached parity (at its lowest point, it was about \$1.04 to £1) an American staying in London at an hotel charging £120 per night would have paid \$120. Until last week, with the pound virtually double the dollar, the same American would have had to pay \$240 for the same room.

In fact, the room may now be available for £80 (that is, a drop of one third in money terms and much more in real terms after inflation) which would have cost him, prior to devaluation, \$160, or \$40 more.

The example illustrates the extent to which the British hotel industry is suffering from both the effects of the recession and a high value pound: it also shows how much American visitors suffered at the height of sterling's strength — and the USA is the key recovery market.

Government policies until this week have had a severely

negative influence on the tourism industry, on the employment it creates (over 1.5 million) and on the foreign exchange it earns (£7.8 billion in 1990).

It is little surprise therefore that the industry should welcome the recent devaluation of sterling against most major countries — not only in America, but Germany and Japan and other important markets.

Devaluation will make Britain infinitely more attractive as a tourist destination. It will also make outbound tourism from the UK more expensive which will have the added benefit of encouraging more UK residents to stay at home next year.

For the tourism industry at least, recovery could begin in 1993 and buoyant trading conditions could return in 1994 and 1995.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A. BODLENDER,  
Chairman,  
Horwath Consulting,  
8 Baker Street,  
W1.

## Trade figures will be published

From Mr W. McLennan  
Sir, Your Business Comment column on 23 September said that "meaningful trade figures will not be published for at least six months and probably nearer a year after the single European market comes into force" at the beginning of 1993. This is incorrect.

The statistics of trade with non-EC countries will be published as normal. For EC countries, there will be some delay while a new system, Intrastat, is introduced. However, we expect to publish, as usual, in mid-June, aggregate statistics of visible trade for the first quarter of 1993 as part of the regular Balance of Payments accounts, and monthly figures soon thereafter.

The decision not to provide a full link between the old and new systems was not taken lightly. Because the present system cannot continue after 31 December, any link would have been very costly to businesses, requiring several thousand to report two sets of information on the same trade.

This problem is not confined to the UK; all other EC countries will be in a similar position.

Yours faithfully,  
W. MCLENNAN, Director,  
Central Statistical Office,  
Great George Street, SW1.

## The way towards full employment

From Brigadier Paxton-Brown  
Sir, I would have expected the new chief executive at such a British institution as Lloyd's with its proud 300-year history (picture — *Business Times*, September 14) to ride a British-made bike — but NO.

Sadly, Mr Peter Middleton has chosen foreign — not even a BMW to keep it in the Common Market so to speak — but is pictured astride his new 800 cc Japanese Suzuki, aptly named "Intruder". At least he will be anonymous with his helmet on.

What's the betting Mr Middleton has a Lexus or Mercedes at home, instead of buying Bentley, Jaguar or other British marque, all of which are in urgent need of a boost in these hard times?

Yours faithfully,  
G.A. PAXTON-BROWN,  
The Garth, Northallerton,  
North Yorkshire.

## Investigation into House of Fraser takeover

From Mr. David Green  
Sir, You report the takeover panel has censured the Al-Fayed brothers for misleading the market when they bid for House of Fraser and Harrods. You also quote the finding of trade department inspectors that the Al-Fayed's "dishonest" misrepresentation of their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources" in the course of that £573 million takeover.

But so far as I am aware every penny of that £573 mil-

Where has patriotism gone? Clearly, it is not strong at Lloyd's — but this is perhaps the least of their worries!

Nowadays we rarely stop to think that for every foreign car or upmarket bike we buy, we are adding to the balance of payments deficit, and exchanging a job in Birmingham or Dagenham for two jobs in Nagasaki. We cannot afford for this situation to continue in the longer term.

BUYING BRITISH in Britain would solve our lamentable economic plight and currency problems, and bring us back towards full employment.

Yours faithfully,  
G.A. PAXTON-BROWN,  
The Garth, Northallerton,  
North Yorkshire.

was forthcoming when due; and House of Fraser and Harrods has traded ever since — profitably and without fraud on any customer, creditor, pension fund or anyone else. Can anyone explain why it is the Al-Fayed brothers continue to enjoy such comprehensive investigation and comment — from departments of state downwards?

DAVID GREEN,  
Rhdyr Harding,  
Castle Morris, Haverfordwest.

## National Westminster Bank Mortgage Rate

With effect from 24 September 1992 for borrowers whose applications have been signed but whose mortgages have not been drawn, and from 01 November 1992 for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be decreased from 10.69% to 9.99%. This change will be reflected in existing borrowers' repayments from 05 or 22 November 1992.

## National Westminster Home Loans Limited

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.



## Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Ricardo Int	Industrial	
2	Widex Water	Water	
3	Wadley	Industrial	
4	Jardine Math	Industrial	
5	Securitized	Industrial	
6	Midland Elec	Electricity	
7	Luxford	Motor/Air	
8	Hartford Credit	Finance	
9	Shell	Oil/Gas	
10	Dalgety	Foods	
11	Wardlaw SG	Banks/Sec	
12	Town Centre	Property	
13	Jaques Vert	Drainage/Sms	
14	Prudential	Insurance	
15	Refresco	Industrial	
16	Rosk	Industrial	
17	Permonon	Building/Rds	
18	Taunton Cider	Beverages	
19	GECC	Electrical	
20	Kwik Sav	Foods	
21	Severn Trent	Water	
22	Nitin Foods	Foods	
23	Delta	Electrical	
24	Epwin	Building/Rds	
25	BET Ord	Industrial	
26	Cape	Industrial	
27	Leiford Frozen	Foods	
28	Scott TV	Leisure	
29	Warner	Property	
30	Henderson Ad	Financial/Tst	
31	Huntly Tech	Industrial	
32	Chadwell	Industrial	
33	Raideney	Financial/Land	
34	Bathurst	Electrical	
35	BSS Group	Industrial	
36	Shogun Estates	Property	
37	Gr Portland	Property	
38	Finze	Hotels/Cat	
39	Kidman Ben	Banks/Sec	
40	S & U	Finance/Land	
41	BOC	Industrial	
42	Bowthorpe	Electrical	
43	Hilldown	Foods	
44	Yorkshire W	Water	

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs A McCaughan, of Maidstone, and Mr Ian Finlay, of Ealing, London W13, each receive £2,000.

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

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119 100 Anglo Irish 126 2 0.5 10.9

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## Late surge

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 21. Dealings end October 2. Settlement day October 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices rounded off at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Price % Net Yld % P/E

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## Portfolio

## PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend figure. If



## THE TRADE DEPARTMENT FINDINGS ON THE BLUE ARROW AFFAIR

## A case of one man exercising too much power

The government yesterday published its long-awaited report into Blue Arrow.

Here are extracts from the conclusions on the leading players in the affair

**Peter de Savary**

At the time of our appointment Mr de Savary was viewed in the media and elsewhere as having a prominent and questionable role in relation to certain of Blue Arrow's affairs, in particular the Canvey transaction. Such a perception was incorrect. Our Inquiry into Blue Arrow has not disclosed any fraud or impropriety concerning the Canvey transaction. We are satisfied it was a genuine commercial transaction and was offered in good faith by Mr de Savary.

**Michael Ashcroft**

Mr Ashcroft has been a close colleague of Mr Berry for many years. The extent of his influence on Mr Berry is not easy to assess. Mr Berry sought his advice on corporate matters concerning Blue Arrow over the years, including in relation to the acquisition of Manpower, although Mr Ashcroft did not render an invoice for any such advice until the LJA invoice of 9 December 1988. We were unsatisfied by the explanations received from both Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft as to the reasons for the timing, the amount and the prompt payment of this invoice. There have also been dealings between Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft involving Blue Arrow as set out in this Report. These include transactions concerning Miss World shares in respect of which there were, in our view, disquieting features and arrangements, of which Blue Arrow was unaware, between Mr Berry and Mr Ashcroft relating to Blue Arrow shares. These arrangements concerning Blue Arrow shares were not disclosed by Mr Ashcroft in response to enquiries and Section

212 notices sent to him in the period January to June 1989.

Although Mr Ashcroft had no role in the management of the Company, in his capacity as Chairman of ADT he did feature at two strategic times during the later period of Blue Arrow's history under review in this Report. First, at the time of Mr Berry's imminent removal in late December 1988/early January 1989 when ADT sent the Board two tentative offers for the Company, the second of which was conditional upon there being no change in the management. Later, when Mr Ashcroft attended the AGM in April 1989, his questions, including that relating to post balance sheet events,

were intended to embarrass the then Board. Mr Ashcroft told us that he wished to convey to the new management at Blue Arrow the impression that he was "an unguided missile" that they could not pin down" and "a variable" and, as such, someone to be "taken into consideration in their dealing with Mr Berry".

**We have heard of his generosity, his loyalty to his friends and of the importance he places on trust**

**Bruce Gray**

Mr Gray, as Company Secretary, was responsible for ensuring that the Company complied with procedural requirements, both under the Articles of Association and under Statute, and that it complied with its obligations to The Stock Exchange. Mr Gray had prime responsibility for the irregular procedures concerning Directors' Meetings generally and was responsible for the preparation of the minutes of two Directors' Meetings dealt with in this Report which did not take place, namely, 29 November 1988 relating to the Portugal joint venture and 2 December



Breach of faith: the report finds Tony Berry guilty of serious failures in his fiduciary duty

1988 concerning the Canvey transaction... Although we do not consider Mr Gray's conduct to have been either dishonest or intentionally misleading, nonetheless, the discharge of his responsibilities as Company Secretary of a public company was, in these respects, most unsatisfactory.

**Norman Tebbit**

We have made no criticism of Mr Tebbit's role as a non-executive director in any of the events at Blue Arrow. He too at all times acted both responsibly and honourably

in fulfilling his duties as a non-executive director and in his endeavours to resolve what he viewed as the problems at Blue Arrow.

**Mitchell Fromstein**

When Manpower was taken over by Blue Arrow in September 1987, Mr Fromstein lost what has been described as "his baby". It was a company which he had built up which had grown rapidly under his leadership.

We have not criticised Mr Fromstein's conduct as a director of Blue Arrow in any respect either in

the period prior to his dismissal in December 1988, when he was Chief Executive Officer of Manpower, or following his return in January 1989, when he became Chief Executive of Blue Arrow.

**David Atkins**

Mr Atkins had a close friendship with Mr Berry. He tried at times to act as a restraining influence on Mr Berry. However, he does not seem to have played any significant role in any of the matters dealt with in this Report, except that we consider that, as an executive

director, he bears a degree of responsibility for the continuing irregular procedures concerning meetings of executive directors referred to as Directors' Meetings.

**Nicholas Fazakerley**

Mr Fazakerley has been criticised in two respects in this Report, namely, in his allowing the sundry debtors account relating to Mr Berry's development in Portugal to remain unresolved for so long without raising his concerns with other directors or the Board and, like Mr Atkins, for his share of responsibility as an executive director in relation to the continuing irregular procedures for Directors' Meetings. We recognise Mr Fazakerley did try to restrain some of Mr Berry's actions.

**Anthony Berry**

Blue Arrow and Mr Berry came to be regarded in some minds as synonymous. He had built up Blue Arrow from a small private company into a very large public company... The acquisition of Manpower, however, put the Company into a different league.

Mr Berry is both likeable and charming. We have heard of his generosity, his loyalty to his friends and of the importance he places on trust in his relationships. Although a strong personality, he is not ruthless or arrogant. On a personal basis, no witness has spoken other than of his charming and pleasant personality.

Mr Berry has fully co-operated with our Inquiry in readily responding to our substantial requests for documentation and in attending before us. However, as will be apparent from this Report, there are a number of occasions where we have not accepted Mr Berry's evidence either because, in our view, it was not credible or because it was contrary to other evidence which we have accepted.

The picture that has emerged is one of Mr Berry largely continuing to run Blue Arrow as he had always done despite its transformation to a very substantial public com-

pany... In reality the environment that existed at the time at Blue Arrow enabled Mr Berry, as both Chairman and Chief Executive, to exercise too much power.

There is, however, a separate and more serious category of conduct on the part of Mr Berry which we have addressed in this Report. Such conduct, in our view, amounted to breaches of Mr Berry's fiduciary duty to Blue Arrow, and is summarised below:

□ Deliberately making two misleading statements to the Board concerning the Canvey transaction.

□ Concluding the Canvey transaction despite the absence of Board approval and without authority.

□ Deliberately omitting to inform the Board about the revision to the BAC shareholders' agreement.

□ Not bringing to the Board transactions in which he had an actual or possible conflict of interest and duty.

In addition, Mr Berry paid insufficient regard to the need for compliance with his statutory obligations as a director and with regulatory matters concerning the Company.

To an extent Mr Berry became a victim of circumstances. The consequences of the Manpower takeover became too much for him to cope with. He received considerable media attention. He became subject to a build up of pressures, both corporate and personal, following the substantial fall in the share price and its failure to rally, brought about largely by matters outside his control, namely the stock market crash and the County NatWest shareholding.

While the above can explain, in part, Mr Berry's actions, it does not excuse them. He was the Chairman and Chief Executive of a major public company and, in both roles, had onerous duties and responsibilities. In this Report we have criticised, in varying degrees of severity, acts and omissions on the part of Mr Berry. Such conduct was clearly not acceptable for someone in a position of authority in a public company.

**The effects of the Manpower takeover became too much for Mr Berry to cope with**

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**HEWLETT PACKARD**







## Royal trust start-ups produce survivors

BY DEREK HARRIS

THE royal touch seems to be working well for young people setting up their own business with help from the Prince's Youth Business Trust, of which the Prince of Wales is president.

The employment department, which contributes £3.5 million a year to the trust, asked P-E International, the consultant, to run a rule over the royal charity and discovered that two thirds of the young entrepreneurs helped by the trust were still trading after three years. Two thirds of those survivors were also doing as well as, or better than, they had expected when they started.

The trust helps people aged 18 to 25, although the age limit is raised to 30 for those who are disabled. Grants of up to £1,500 and loans to a ceiling of £5,000 are available. The trust scheme also offers counselling for businesses when needed, a non-financial support that has earned many plaudits.

The success rate is assessed as being strong, given the youth or disadvantage of those launching businesses. More than 15,000 people have benefited from the work of the trust, while more than 3,000 are now being helped to set up in business each year.

The business has many signs of maturing. Overall, 16 per cent of them have grown to the stage where they have paid employees. Of those set up in 1990, 24 per cent have taken on paid help.

Patrick Gratian, chief operating

officer for the trust, said: "The great majority of our businesses remain one-person concerns, but the record of employment of others and of growth is good compared with the performance and survival of all very small businesses in Europe and the United States."

Even those with failed businesses found the experience left them a dynamic inheritance: nearly half were determined to try another new business and others said it made getting a job easier. Half said their confidence had been boosted.

More details can be obtained from the trust on 071-321 6500, or by writing to 5 Cleveland Place, London SW1Y 6JJ.



"Good grief, no! We're not discriminating against you — we don't like any small businesses!"

## Hearts of gold in the office

BY CHRISTOPHER BROWNE

TWO men with an interest in the bad things of life are Paul Sonabend and Giles Wigoder. They have a heart-monitoring business, based in London, offering budget health checks for companies interested in protecting the health of office staff and shopfloor workers.

Mr Sonabend, who has been in business for ten years, picked up the idea for what is now Lifestyle Diagnostics three years ago. He was at an industrial seminar in America and found heart-testing there had become common practice. In one town near Boston he found it was compulsory for companies to screen all their employees.

It led him into partnership with Mr Wigoder who, at 33, is manager of Lifestyle, part of the Incomes business of which Mr Sonabend is managing director. Other activities like consultancy on use of filter screens, wrist pads and arm rests for operators of visual display units are, for the moment, the main support of the overall business.

Lifestyle has been chasing health monitoring business for two years and has signed up a number of customers including a government department. But tight company budgets mean other potential customers are unlikely to sign up before next year, Mr Sonabend said.

from the private health schemes that many companies subscribe to for health monitoring of executives. Lifestyle purposely aimed its tests at the shopfloor workforce not usually covered by such schemes. The Family Heart Association is supporting the Lifestyle scheme.

Lifestyle has run into two problems. One is persuading employers to take up the scheme in the first place. Usually they approach the personnel department of a company, a field in which Mr Wigoder has some expertise since he was a personnel officer in Kingfisher's Comet electrical division.

Mr Wigoder said: "Many employers put the health of their workforce fairly low on their list of priorities — and with the recession many of them have been faced with redundancies and don't see the point in screening employees who might not be with the company within the next five years."

Those offered screening also might have doubts. Mr Wigoder said: "The very idea of having tests for blood pressure or cholesterol level scares many people for they think it will show them up to be unhealthy and bring them face to face with some of their more indulgent habits."

Nurses carry out the tests, usually at company premises. As well as blood pressure and cholesterol tests there is a check for signs of diabetes. Lifestyles are questioned to build up an individual picture so appropriate advice can be given. There is a monitoring after six months.



Health check: Giles Wigoder, manager of Lifestyle Diagnostics

## BRIEFINGS

Annabel Broome, a psychologist, has contributed to a guide to starting in business that is available free from BT. The idea is to show, through case histories, how telecommunications can help new businesses, but there is also a guide to the personality types to be found among entrepreneurs. She identifies the solo flyers who tend to be dogged while working alone, the yahoos, who are all about power, vitality and ruthlessness, the stalkers who, like chess players, calculate every move, and the family oriented people for whom their group is king. The guide and a self-assessment questionnaire may be obtained by calling 0800 800 910.

A fortnightly publication covering deals and other activities in the United Kingdom venture capital market has been started by Initiative Europe, a London company set up in 1988 to provide UK and European venture capital and buyout information. The publication, *Unquote*, costs £275 for an introductory year from Initiative Europe (071-735 9838).

GMS, the consultant in executive leasing based in Dunstable, is launching an expanded programme for redundant top executives to prepare them to become interim managers and independent consultants. It is a four-day programme, plus three optional days. Details are available from GMS on 0582 666970, or at 48 High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 1LA.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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# INFOTECH TIMES

## Doubts cloud new TV picture

Digital television is to be launched soon. But there are problems, reports Barry Fox

The world of television and video is moving inexorably from the analogue to the digital domain. The question is not whether the change will affect viewers, but how and when.

There are two strands to the story. One involves high-definition television of far better quality than anything yet seen in the home; the other involves "conventional" television with quality similar to today's.

All present-day television transmissions are analogue, and most use the widely adopted system known as PAL. The home video cassette recorders that tape them are also analogue. The Eureka project HD-MAC, Europe's high-definition television system, is analogue, as is the D2-MAC satellite system on which it builds. Technically, HD-MAC is on target for commercial launch in 1994 or 1995, but its prospects look increasingly bleak.

Of the three European companies most heavily committed to the Eureka HD-MAC project, Thomson and Philips are working on a digital HDTV system for use in the United States. Both companies now appear to be preparing for a policy turnaround at the end of the year, if the European Commission votes not to spend about £600 million on subsidising HD-MAC. The vote will be taken at EC Council meetings in November and December. Even if ministers approve the spending, it can only help the production of HDTV programmes for transmission in any format.

There can be no hope now of the full-scale switch by broadcasters from PAL to D2-MAC transmission, which is needed to provide Eureka's evolutionary upgrade from D2-MAC to HD-MAC.

The satellite broadcasters are using PAL instead of D2-MAC because the EC's 1986 directive, which was



Wary about claims being made for the likely growth of high-definition television: John Forrest of National Transcommunications

supposed to make them use MAC, included a glaring loophole that was never plugged. This allowed the use of PAL from satellites — notably Luxembourg's Astra — which work at lower power and lower frequency than those covered by the directive.

If HD-MAC must be written off as an opportunity lost to Europe by the EC's 1986 directive, the only logical step will be for Europe to look further ahead and plan for an all-digital and high-definition television future.

Telling signs could be noticed at the International Broadcasting Convention in Amsterdam in July. Engineering opinion was that analogue HD-MAC had missed its chance and that the only sensible way forward was with an all-digital, high-definition system in the second half of the 1990s.

A group of Scandinavian researchers demonstrated a working all-digital high-definition system called Divine, which the group is developing for a fraction of the money spent on HD-MAC. At the same time, engineers demonstrated technology developed by Britain's National Transcommunications, under contract from the Independent Television Commission. This allows one of today's terrestrial television channels to carry either one all-digital HDTV programme, or at least four all-digital television programmes of similar quality to an analogue PAL programme.

These transmissions can even be slotted into gaps in the UHF band that exist between today's analogue programmes, to create room for up to 20 new digital services, which could be run in parallel with existing analogue services. However, John Forrest, the chief executive of National Transcommunications, is wary of predictions made for the growth of high-definition television.

"It is very impressive, but I cannot see the domestic market for it being very large until flat-screen, on-the-wall technology makes the sets acceptable to most people," he says.

"My biggest personal worry is the pressure to push the consumer into purchases of new technology before

the question of programme services has been adequately considered. Few people buy equipment for its marvelous technology. They buy a service, for programmes or information, to bring them fun and relaxation."

When digital television arrives, there will be an immediate need for digital video recorders. This will play a clever new trick: recording all the

The battle is already leading to lower costs and is encouraging the rival manufacturers to look at every available way of simplifying the technology. The work now being done on professional systems will inevitably spin off into the domestic market during the second half of the decade.

The most significant innovation is the development of compression systems, which reduce the number of digital bits that have to be recorded on tape.

Fewer bits mean longer recording times, and simplify and cheapen the recorder mechanism. The trick is to reduce the number of bits without sacrificing picture quality or facilities such as freeze-frame and fast search.

These problems have already been solved for professional digital video. The next step is to bring the price down to consumer levels. This should have been done by the time broadcasters start transmitting digital and high-definition programmes.

The next step is to bring the price down to realistic consumer levels

## Opening the systems door

A telephone hotline is being planned by the government for organisations wanting advice on converting their computer operations to "open systems". This would allow them to mix equipment from various suppliers without being shackled to the standard of a single manufacturer.

Central and local government have done their best to foster open systems by their purchasing policies, but commercial take-up has been slow.

Unbiased information can be difficult to find. The trade and industry department has sent out a consultative document to information technology suppliers asking for sponsorship for a telephone service fielding questions on any aspect of open systems development, technology and services.

Would-be open systems customers may have questions about standards, products and suppliers, and may want to contact organisations which already use open systems. Yet the project has been met with scepticism in the computing industry.

Dr Douglas Eyclois is the director general of the Computing Services Association (CSA), the trade body of the software and services industry, which also contains some leading hardware suppliers such as IBM, Bull and ICL.

He is by no means convinced that the plan will work. "The problem for most of computer users, not just in the UK but throughout the world, is that they have a lot of old systems that they want to make run together," he says. "The

people who advocate open systems are telling them to make yet another change. "It may become a reality by the year 2000, but not at the moment, and I do not see the scheme helping much."

The concept of open systems is being promoted most by hardware manufacturers rather than software companies. For example, the French company Bull has just opened a "solution centre", which contains a variety of machines from different suppliers, on which customers can test out applications intended to run across equipment from several manufacturers.

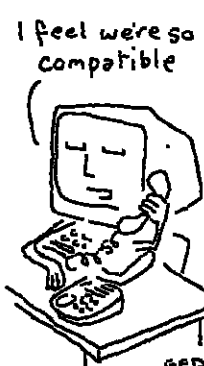
Warren Greaves, the trade and industry department's open systems unit manager, who is in charge of promoting the new enquiry service, complains that the industry is giving conflicting messages on the precise nature of open systems.

"The industry must start putting out consistent messages," he says. "Most users cannot afford large sums to get advice about it."

There is also a suspicion among many users that despite a public commitment to open systems, manufacturers are reluctant to provide truly independent information about them if it means losing a sale. Hence the department is at pains to explain that the service should be independent of sponsoring suppliers.

"The service could under no circumstances provide details of callers to either the sponsors or any other organisations."

SEAN HALLAHAN



## Lost? Just ask a PC

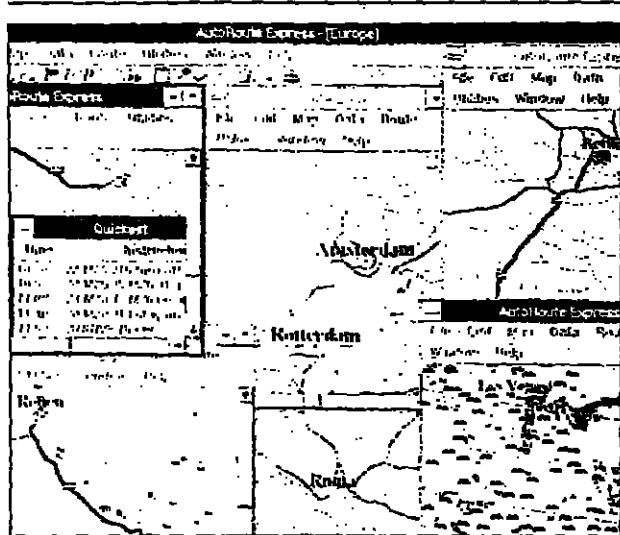
The use of route-planning computer software is becoming popular among firms with large mobile workforces. This is because travel is playing such a great part in white-collar workers' lives and because a large proportion of a company's workforce may be on the road at any one time. Whether they are sales staff, buyers, maintenance engineers or delivery people, all this travelling costs money.

Route-planning software allows users to organise cross-country trips with lots of stops, estimate how long each section of the route will take, how much they have to spend on fuel, and calculate the best way to get from one place on the route to another.

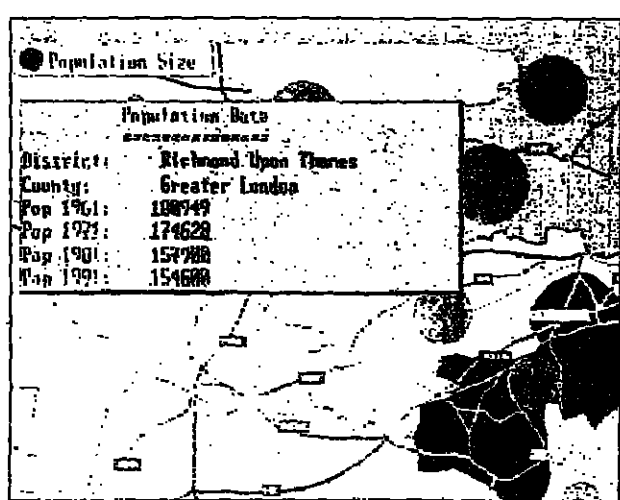
AutoRoute Express, for example, contains details of all the major and minor roads in Britain and will calculate all the possible routes from one place to another — and with as many stops as required.

It can calculate the number of miles involved, show the fastest road, the most scenic road or the shortest road —

Computer route-planning systems can save money, and helped to secure victory in the Gulf war



The open road: AutoRoute Express shows the way



Looking at populations: figures at your fingertips

AutoRoute for the UK, France, the rest of Europe and the United States. The American version is also on sale in the US under the name Automap, and Automap Incorporated, of Phoenix, Arizona, a subsidiary company, has been established to sell the product.

Despite its undeniable success, NextBase is not the only company selling mapping software. Other companies offer packages covering both

off-road and on-road, and hand-held units with satellite links are next on the horizon for off-road travel. Trimble Navigation, for example, has produced Pathfinder Professional, a geographic co-ordinate system consisting of a hand-held device which works with the satellite global positioning system.

The device can be used with any of 68 different mapping systems to track the position of the user anywhere in the world. A version called Shig-

Troops navigated deserts where natives got lost

ger was used by the American military in the Gulf war. About 5,000 were used by troop commanders to navigate the allied forces through a desert to the north of Kuwait. Iraqi generals said that they never expected anyone to use that route because even natives get lost there.

The American forestry service has also been interested in the units for surveying forest fires and for making sure that logging companies that contract for areas of timber take only the allotted quantity. Until now, line-of-sight surveys were the only way to map the timber taken by a contractor, and such surveys could take as long as two weeks. Now a forest ranger with a Pathfinder unit can walk the area in a day and know exactly how much timber has been taken.

Other applications include mapping of wetlands for endangered species, mapping the location of equipment such as telephone poles and stations for utility companies, and tracking lorries.

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## Hi-ho, off to screen we go

THREE hundred thousand people in Britain are estimated to be teleworking — using computers with telephone links to employers to work from home.

This month the National Association of Teleworkers has been formed with the aim of promoting the benefits of

## ONLINE

teleworking and to establish a code of conduct. Details: 0404 47467

Cambridge Cable, which is to start a telephone service for subscribers next month, claims a British first by offering "personal numbers" — allowing customers to use one number wherever they are. Users will dial a special

number from anywhere in the world and key in a PIN and the phone number to which they want calls diverted.

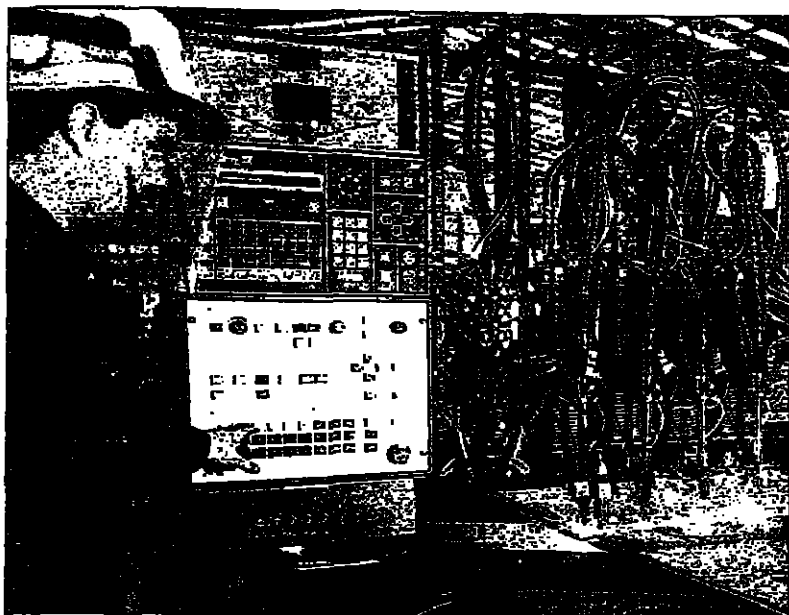
IBM has introduced a new line of its PS/2 computers in the US and plans to promote them as a premium-priced system for business users. IBM hopes to boost its sagging personal computer mar-

ket share with the new range. All the machines have pre-loaded software and three-year warranty periods. Four from the range are multimedia machines with audio and video capabilities.

Two weeks ago, IBM announced 21 new PS/1 systems for the small office and home computer market. Buyers can expect the introduction of similar products to the United Kingdom next month.



Sean Hallahan finds computers have automated offices more than shopfloors



An operator, above, uses computer-controlled cutting equipment and, right, a quality controller checks a car using a talking fault-finding system



The unmanned factory of the future, like the paperless office, was one of those pipe dreams during the 1980s computer enthusiasm. The vision was of lines of computer-controlled robots assembling components with the minimum of human intervention. Automation would bring an end to repetitive jobs, more leisure time and a shorter, more flexible working week.

Something of the flavour of this visionary idyll is captured in *The Wired Society*, by James Martin, one of the computer industry's most influential observers, published in 1978.

Mr Martin wrote: "Boring jobs can be done by computers communicating with one another on data networks. Factories can be largely automated, each machine tool containing a microprocessor, and the overall operations being controlled from telecom communications nerve centres."

In practice, information technology, where applied in factories, has often done more in automating paperwork than the production line.

Some manufacturing departments have been heavily computerised for years. At the start of the manufacturing process, drawing offices may use PCs and workstations for computer-aided design, and computer-controlled automated warehouses can be used to speed the distribution process.

Walkers Crisps, for exam-

## Robot go-slow in the factory

ple, has just completed an automated warehouse, which will handle about 1.5 billion packets of crisps and snacks every year. The process from the end of the production line to the picking lanes, where the goods are made ready for loading on to vehicles, is carried out without human intervention.

From five production lines, cartons of crisps and snacks are collected by shuttle cars, which are basically wagons on rails, and carried by conveyor belts and cranes to a racking system all under the control of a computer system. From these racks, goods are sent automatically to 174 gravity-fed picking lanes, every one with a capacity to hold five pallets. Every lane is replenished when the number of pallets drops to three.

The computer system, which controls cranes, shuttle cars and conveyors, is linked to a minicomputer, which handles order processing and other administrative func-

tions, updated automatically as stock levels change.

The company will not put a figure on the cost of the system, saying only that it runs into millions of pounds. A similar system for the South Western Electricity Board cost about £3.5 million.

Clearly such systems are beyond the reach of all except the largest companies, although the cost of the comput-

ers themselves is continually falling, and the machines are processing information faster and have greater storage.

Nigel Parry, a marketing executive with Digitron, believes many smaller companies can implement automated warehouse and distribution systems using cheap PCs. "The average PC on a desk today has more power

### The huge investments of the 1980s are not being matched now

than the original large computers installed to run automated warehouses 25 years ago," he says.

On the production line itself, however, robotics has generally not taken off as predicted. The main emphasis of computers in manufacturing has been the scheduling and organisation of materials through just-in-time software or materials requirements planning (MRP) software. MRP systems have come under heavy criticism for failing to deliver what they promised, and almost as much attention is being paid to rectifying failures on systems already installed as to selling new systems.

The leading users of just-in-time systems are in the motor industry, where a large number of different parts are needed to assemble different versions of every model.

"Just-in-time works well in the car industry, because the big car companies have got such enormous clout with their

suppliers," says Tony Hoare, ICL's manufacturing operations manager.

Computer-numerically-controlled machines are also heavily used in the engineering and process industries. However, prospects for a regeneration of British industry by applying computers to the factory floor are not rosy.

"The huge investments of the 1980s are not being matched now," says Mick Lacey, the managing director for commerce and industry with the software company Sema, which is running a multi-million-pound process control project for British Nuclear Fuels.

Mr Lacey argues that there is another factor in the poor take-up of computer-based manufacturing systems: disillusionment with the promises of the computer industry.

One industrial sector that has successfully incorporated computers into its production system is computer manufacturing itself. Companies such as ICL and IBM have fully automated assembly plants. Of course, they have the advantage of not having to buy the hardware and software, and have a ready pool of skilled staff to implement and maintain the machines.

Where computers have been heavily employed in the manufacturing sector, they have usually improved productivity and reduced costs, but the necessary investment is high, the tasks are complex and — as Mr Hoare at ICL points out — implementation requires big changes in working practices.

## Perfect designs come on a plate

Winning ideas from computers are saving time and money

Computer-integrated manufacturing aims to do for the factory floor what word processing, databases and spreadsheets have done for the office, using information technology to improve industrial output.

Ideally, it should be far more than an ad hoc collection of information technology tools thrown together to try to achieve an improvement in production methods.

Computer-integrated manufacturing may have to involve a radical rethink of the ways in which people and processes work together, if it is to provide a basis for linking an entire industrial operation, from the design and specification of a product through its manufacture to its final delivery to the customer.

When Hotpoint was preparing its latest dishwasher, for example, it instructed a computer to design something strong, long-lasting and easy to make, using a minimum of materials. Until recently, that would have been as far as the computer could go. The next step would have been to get a subcontractor to make tooling and manufacture a few prototypes for trials — an expensive and time-consuming process.

However, the company was testing new software, which generates both two-dimensional drawings and three-dimensional images. The design for the new plate tray was fed into the system, and simulated place settings were loaded into it. Disaster! Plates fouled the wires and it would not hold a full 12-place setting. "Discovering the faults at this stage saved the considerable expense of tooling up and making prototypes," says Dave Ellis, information technology co-ordinator at Hotpoint.

Until recently, it meant little more for the average company than a computerised drawing-board generating drawings in two dimensions. Now, designers can link up with other computer systems throughout a company, with sometimes dramatic results.

"Computers can now affect and benefit the whole of design, visualisation and manu-

facturing process, with the objective of getting products to the market sooner, better and cheaper," Mr Ellis says.

Various mechanical attributes of complex parts, such as weight and centre of gravity, can be calculated, so that the way they will behave can be accurately predicted. The amount of material consumed can be estimated, too, for better cost control, and parts schedules can be generated automatically.

The buzzword in the industry is "concurrent engineering", which aims to compress all the functions of manufacturing into parallel streams, to cut development times.

"Alphanumeric databases, such as parts and materials requirements lists, will already be operating on one system, and it is essential to

link them into others," says Neil McLeod, of Intergraph, which supplied the system at Hotpoint. "Once you have done that, you can go full circle and analyse the design before making prototypes."

But for all the computers' labour-saving, Mr Ellis believes that one of the biggest payoffs for industry is the changes in the ways human beings work together.

"We are establishing an open approach to design, working in small project teams that involve all aspects of manufacturing at the early stages," he says. "Rather than design engineers drawing up a model and passing it to the production engineers, who send it back saying 'You can't do that', everyone is involved from the start."

At the other end of the scale, companies that would never have considered abandoning pencil and paper a few years ago are buying computer design systems, attracted by the amazingly low prices of PC software. The basic version of Autodesk, the workhorse of the industry, now costs about £150.

John Goodman, the Autodesk product manager at Autodesk, of Guildford, says: "Users want to share project files, dip into central files of drawings and use databases." The ultimate aim must be to enable all those involved in making a product to navigate through a company's databases for the information they need.

● The Computers in Manufacturing show will take place at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from next Tuesday until Thursday.



Cleaning up: Hotpoint's David Ellis

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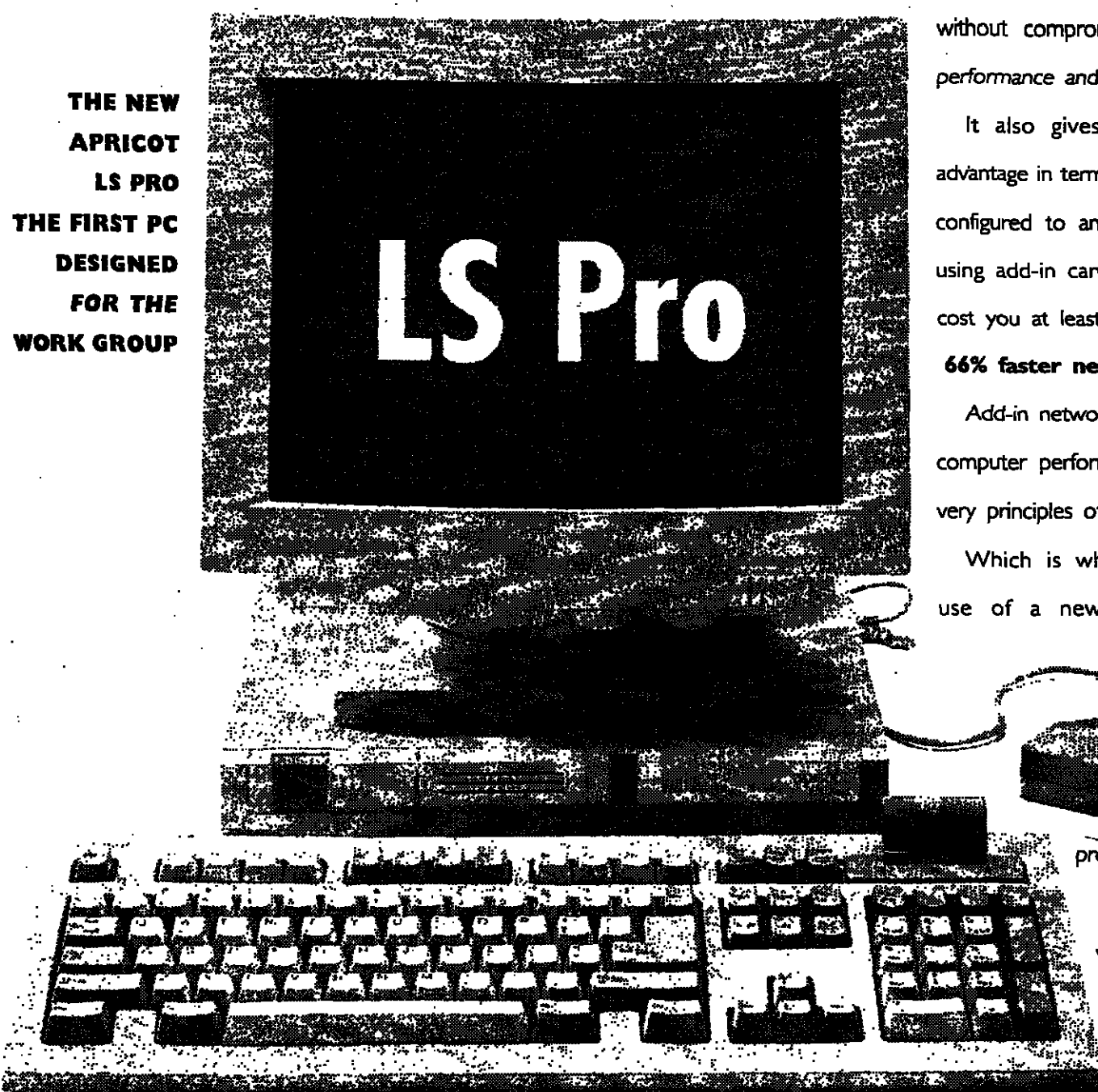
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WORK GROUP



By 1995, it is estimated, 70% of all PCs will be networked. This revolution is well advanced today, fuelled by network-based applications like electronic mail, group scheduling and departmental project management.

These all improve the business efficiency of a group of people (the work group), by allowing them to share the information they need to make better, faster, more creative decisions.

And at the heart of these networks will be computers like the new Apricot LS Pro, the world's first Workgroup PC.

## What the Workgroup needs, the Workgroup gets.

The Apricot LS Pro is a high performance computer that comes ready with all the features that are key to work group operation.

Networking, Security, Business Audio and Enhanced Video Graphics are all – astonishingly – housed inside a slimline casing just over 2" deep.

This integrated approach enables us to design our systems

without compromise, resulting in faster performance and greater reliability.

It also gives the LS Pro a clear advantage in terms of price: to buy a Dell configured to an equivalent specification using add-in cards, for example, would cost you at least 15% more.

### 66% faster network performance.

Add-in network cards frequently slow computer performance, undermining the very principles of work group operation.

Which is why the LS Pro makes use of a new Ethernet (network)

co-processor from

Intel which

sits right next

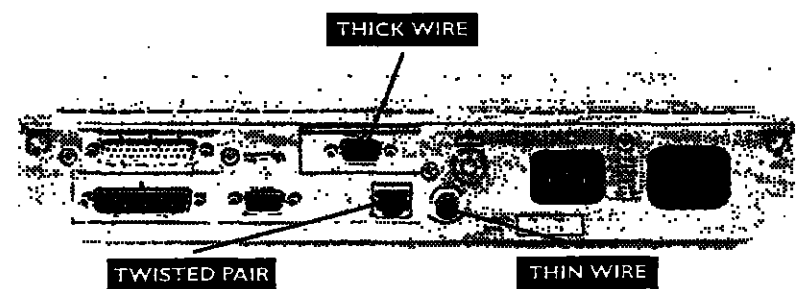
to the main

processor.

This Integrated Network Architecture (INA) allows LS Pro users to access information over the network 66%

faster than equivalent PCs equipped with add-in cards – a significant improvement in productivity.

And because networking is integrated, every new LS Pro computer comes fully network-ready, with connections for all three Ethernet standards: thin wire, thick wire and twisted pair. There is even an option for Token Ring.



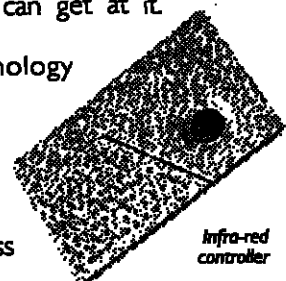
## You can't take security for granted. Nor do we.

Once you start sharing information in a group, you need to make certain that only the right people can get at it.

Which is why Apricot's LOC Technology Security System is also standard, working on two levels.

The first barrier controls physical access to the computer through the use of a credit-card sized infra-red controller. Without it, the machine simply can't be activated.

The second barrier is based on an advanced password



management system with a range of clever protocols.

It's the only such system to be certified to UK Level 1 by the Government's Security Evaluation and Certification Group and, importantly, it also prevents contamination by all known viruses.

### What is Business Audio?

Business Audio enables the LS Pro to record and playback sound under Windows 3.1, digitally and in stereo.

It has input/output jacks on the side of the casing and a microphone which attaches to the top right corner of the keyboard, for direct voice-input.

And while it may seem like the first signs of madness to start talking to your computer, in reality it opens up a wide range of practical benefits.

You can, for example, annotate documents by voice. You can listen to "Help" files instead of having to read them. You can even send electronic mail by voice instead of written text.

For work groups, it even opens up the prospect of LAN conferencing, where you can talk to someone else on the network in real time, while sharing the same information on-screen.

### Compact size, generous spec.

The new LS Pro ranges from a 386SX running at 33Mhz with 2Mb RAM to a 486SLC running at 33Mhz with 4Mb RAM.

Additionally, all models can be expanded up to 16Mb of SIMM memory.

IDE hard drives range from the standard 80Mb right up to an 8 ms access time 515Mb, with diskless versions also available.

And all models have an integrated high performance EVGA graphics controller supporting up to 1024 x 768 x 256 colours.

### Who needs the LS Pro?

If you're networked (or about to be) there's simply no better computer you can buy than the LS Pro.

But even if you're just looking for a new PC, nothing can match its specification and its compact size at the price. And if you're looking ahead, it's worth bearing in mind that a new piece of software from Microsoft – Windows for Workgroups – will allow as few as two LS Pro computers to be networked together, simply by connecting a cable between them.

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Refusal of leading athletes to take part has devalued inter-continental competition

## Market leaders shun the World Cup

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN HAVANA

THE sixth World Cup begins here today looking as run-down as the Cuban capital, once the most beautiful city in the Caribbean. It is without the support of all but a few of the sport's main personalities and, if this is not the last World Cup, then the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is not reading the signs.

Tony Dees, the Olympic sprint hurdles runner-up, was supposed to have checked in with the United States team on Wednesday but failed to show. He was the last surviving top name in the US men's line-up and John Capriotti, the assistant team manager, was trying to patch up by asking Nat Page, a 400 metres hurdler, to fill the hole.

No pay, no play, and it shows in a team missing Carl Lewis, Kevin Young, Quincy Watts et al. The United States is without Sergey Bubka and the Africans are minus Noureddine Morceli, Moses Kiptanui and others. Call this a World Cup? "The dollar always comes first and athletes just get per diem cheques to compete," Capriotti said. "The athletes need more incentive to be here."

Even if there was, how many would come? "The World Cup is something that everyone could do without," said Ron Roddan, coach of the few Olympic champions here. "There is too much competition. Christie is here at this late stage in the season mainly because he takes pride on captaining his country."

When the World Cup was first held in 1977, the advantages were perceived as an expansion of world-class competition, the stimulation of continental areas, and a way to provide revenue for development. In those days there was no grand prize and no biennial world championships.

Even as recently as 1989 the World Cup still seemed worthwhile, providing competition better than any grand prize

that season (Bile v Coe and Kingdom v Jackson to name but two). Now there is too much competition and, though Cuba will make \$250,000, it is a loss-maker for the IAAF, which is having to pay a host broadcaster to cover the event.

From 1981 to 1989 the World Cup was held every four years, but has been brought forward from 1993 to avoid clashing with the world championships. The format comprises men's and women's matches between eight teams, three national and one from each of the five continents.

José María Odriozola, the Spanish federation president and manager of the European team, said here that the World Cup had been "a little devalued" by the paucity of the season's champion athletes present and was especially critical of the United States. "I do not care to say my opinion because it is too strong," Odriozola said.

"In the European team we have 60 per cent of our first-choice athletes. Not worthy of a World Cup, either. However, he remains in favour of the occasion. "It has a special flavour," he said.

By finishing in the first two of the European Cup last year, Britain have qualified for the men's World Cup. Third behind the United States and Europe in the last one, the team appears weak, even compared with a US squad comprising mainly fourth or fifth choices, and will do well to match that position. Britain are without Curtis Robb, Steve Backley, Steve Smith, David Grindley, Tom Hanlon, Rob Denmark and Kris Akabusi.

Each team fields one athlete per event, scoring eight points for first and one for last. Thus Glen Smith, aged 20 and making his British senior debut in the discus, is as central to the team as Christie, who has been spared the trouble of facing Olapade Adeniken, who has beaten him three times since the Olympics.



Her last throw: Sanderson will bow out of international athletics after representing Europe in Cuba

Adeniken is down for the 200 metres but the African team should still provide Christie with his closest challenger, having named Frankie Fredericks for the 100 metres. Fredericks was the silver medal winner behind Christie in Barcelona.

The first-day should be Britain's best and the second their worst. Britain start favourite in only two of the 20 events: the 100 metres and the 110 metres hurdles, in which Colin Jackson should have a clear

run in the absence of Dees or the Olympic champion, Mark McKoy.

The British women's team did not qualify but Gowry Reichman, in the 400 metres hurdles, and Tessa Sanderson, in the javelin, will represent Europe. Sanderson is having one last international competition before retirement, but is not taking it too seriously. "I am only here for the kit," she said. The IAAF must wish there were more like her so easily pleased.

## HAVANA PROGRAMME

All times BST  
Today-tomorrow  
23.00: opening ceremony 00.10: women's triple jump 00.15: women's javelin 00.20: men's 400m hurdles 00.25: women's high jump 00.30: women's 200 metres 00.40: men's 800 metres 00.55: women's 400m hurdles 01.10: men's 100 metres 01.15: men's shot 01.20: men's long jump 01.30: women's 1,500 metres 01.45: men's 10,000 metres 02.30: women's 4 x 400 metres  
Tomorrow-Sunday  
21.45: hammer 22.00: pole vault 23.00: women's 100m hurdles 23.15: men's 400 metres 23.20: women's shot 23.30: women's 800 metres 23.35: men's triple jump 23.45: men's discus 00.05: women's 100 metres 00.25: men's 1,500 metres 00.40: men's 4 x 100 metres 01.00: women's 10,000 metres  
Sunday-Monday  
21.15: women's discus 22.00: men's 110m hurdles 22.05: men's high jump 22.30: women's 400 metres 22.35: men's 200 metres 22.55: women's 3,000 metres 23.05: men's javelin 23.10: women's long jump 23.20: women's 4 x 100 metres 23.35: men's 5,000 metres 00.20: men's 4 x 400 metres 00.40: closing ceremony

## Rambo's Hall 8-1 for repeat win in Cambridgeshire

BY MICHAEL SEELY

RAMBO'S Hall was top quoted at 8-1 for an attempt to repeat his 1989 win in the Cambridgeshire at Newmarket on Saturday week after storming to a convincing win in the Hoover Handicap at Ascot yesterday.

"If it's firm, Melotte will naturally take all the beating," said a jubilant Jeremy Glover after Dean McKeown had driven the seven-year-old to a two-and-a-half length defeat of Croft Valley, with Marine Diver four lengths away third. "But if the ground is soft, like it is today, we're going to go very, very close."

This has been an extraordinary story. Having earned £100,000 and won the first leg of the autumn double among other races for a lucky syndicate of four, the then four-year-old was sold to race in California.

Now nearly three years later, Rambo's Hall is once again the star of Glover's 24-horse string at Worsop in Nottinghamshire. "It's been like a dream," said the trainer. "Even if we planned it, it couldn't have worked out like this. They rang us up and asked us if we'd buy him back for £25,000 as he wasn't suited to racing around the tight turns in the United States."

Glover reported: "Unfortunately he came back covered with warts and wasn't allowed out of quarantine. When we got him back he had a scar on one of his legs so he had to have a good rest."

"We've been patient with him and, after winning two claimers at Haydock, he's now back on target. He's got 9st 3lb, including a 5lb penalty, but he's only racing off a 3lb higher mark than when he won it before."

Glover also has high hopes of capturing Saturday's £50,000 Festival Handicap with his York winner, Doublab's Image. "The trouble is that he has his peaks and troughs, so we're going to have him blood tested before deciding whether to send him down," the trainer added.

Other big-race news yesterday is that the likelihood of Lyric Fantasy and Sayyidati meeting in next Wednesday's Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket has now become a virtual certainty.

Yesterday, both were supplemented for the season's premier race for two-year-olds fillies at a late entry fee of £12,500.

Although Michael Roberts refused to commit himself, it is unlikely that the champion jockey elect will desert Lord Carnarvon's pony-sized flying machine, on whom he has now won five races including the Nunthorpe Stakes.

"Lyric Fantasy has got such speed and Sayyidati might find it difficult coming back to six furlongs from seven," was the rider's only comment.

If Roberts sticks with Lyric Fantasy, Steve Caughen is likely to be asked to partner

Sayyidati, favourite for next spring's 1,000 Guineas after her wins in the Cherry Hinton Stakes and the Moyglare Stud Stakes in Ireland.

"She's going to run in the Cheveley Park whether she's got a jockey or not," was Clive Britain's uncompromising comment.

The rest of the afternoon virtually belonged to Shaikh Mohammed. Britain's leading owner landing a treble with Lord Chickney, Opera House and Queen's View.

Showing all the courage and determination that saw him finish third to St Jovite in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, Opera House proved too good for Red Bishop in the Hoover Cumberland Lodge Stakes to claim his third pattern race success of the season.

After initiating a double on Lord Chickney for John Gosden in the opening Clarence House Stakes, Steve Caughen said: "I had the choice between the pair. There wasn't much between them, but I thought that Opera House had a bit more class. I thought I might have been wrong when the second took a slight lead over a furlong from home."

Opera House will now be aimed at the Turf Classic at Belmont Park on October 3, leaving Saddlers' Hall to do duty for Michael Stoute in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

After Lanfranco Dettori and Luca Cumani had given Shaikh Mohammed his third winner of the day in the Blue Seal Stakes, the Newmarket trainer said that no decision had yet been reached about Second Set's participation in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes.

After winning the two-year-old race for the sixth time in the past seven years, Cumani said: "Some of my winners of this race have been good and some bad, so we'll have to see how this one turns out."

Before the start of the Gordon Carter Handicap, Jimmy Scott was kicked in the chest by Jungle Dancer, who eventually finished runner-up to Bold Resolution. Michael Stoute's travelling head-lad was taken to Hetherwood Hospital with chest injuries.



Glover high hopes

## BOXING

## Graham reaches the end

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE career of Herol Graham is as good as over. After his defeat in the ninth round by Frank Grant, a journeyman boxer from Bradford, at Leeds on Wednesday night, the former British and European middleweight champion has no other way open to him but retirement.

Since the fourth-round defeat by Julian Jackson, the World Boxing Council champion, in Spain in 1990, Graham has never looked happy taking a punch on the chin, and if he should continue boxing he could suffer serious injury.

Graham said after his defeat at Elland Road: "I have to sit down and think about the future. A knockout by a champion is one thing but to be stopped by Grant, well though he fought, is another."

Graham's promoter, Mickey Duff, said: "Herol put up the best performance that I have seen but his reflexes are not what they were. He has some very serious thinking to do."

According to people close to Graham, 33, he has not been able to save enough to retire in

comfort for the rest of his life, even though he is estimated to have made close to £750,000 in a 14-year career.

Graham tried desperately to seek a big-money fight with Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn but they both avoided him. Almost certainly he will have to stay close to boring, perhaps training, younger men to win the world title that he could never lift.

Graham has boxed in 18 championships and has been beaten only five times in 49



Graham: gloves off

contests. He was one of the finest boxers in post-war Britain. He was also the unluckiest, coming within one point of beating Mike McCullum, of Jamaica, for the World Boxing Association title. A year later, in 1990, he was frustrated by one punch from Jackson. The referee was about to stop the bout in Graham's favour in the fourth round when Jackson pulled out a knockout punch.

Graham became known as the best middleweight never to have a world title. Despite three more contests he was never able to change that tag and it is to be hoped that he will now have the sense not to try.

It is a pity that Graham's defeat overshadowed a victory of Henry Wharton, of York, over Fidel Castro Smith on the same bill. It was a well-matched contest which Wharton, the British and Commonwealth super-middleweight champion (12 rounds), Henry Wharton (York) and Fidel Castro Smith (Sheffield), today, in the middleweight championship (12 rounds). Frank Grant (Bradford) at Herol Graham (Sheffield, today), 12 st 9 lb and

## Business rivals do battle

BY ALIX RAMSAY

IT IS a long way from San Francisco to Spitfields but, from tomorrow, the World Corporate Games will take over the sporting venues of London as 6,000 competitors from around the globe forsake their Filofaxes and do battle on the sports track rather than in the boardroom.

The Games, which open officially on Sunday at Spitfields Market, began in 1988 in California, and have since visited Hawaii and France. The sports range from petanque to dragon boat racing, and will take place at the best venues in and around the capital, including the All England Club and Westwood.

The idea is to have athletes of all standards and ages competing in a structured competition. The teams are divided into age groups and divisions according to number, allowing the three-strong badminton team from a restaurant in Stoke Newington to compete alongside the 450 members of the British Airways squad.

Casting a professional eye over the proceedings at each venue will be sports personalities such as Bernard Gallagher, Virginia Wade, Fred Perry and Sir Stanley Matthews. But sporting prowess will not be the only skill put to the test. In Hawaii, in 1990, the team from Charles Schwab not only won its division, but also recorded more business that week than it had all year, negotiating deals over post-match isotonic drinks.

In London, Midland Bank will be pinning their hopes on their hockey team, which includes Rob Clift, the Great Britain men's team captain. One of the showpiece sports will be the dragon boat racing at Surrey Docks, where Nuclear Electric will be fielding the strongest team in the country, the Hartlepool Power Men.

## Wigan sure to test Larder's theories

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PHIL Larder is at one with Brian Clough in believing successful sides have first to be strong in defence. The new coach of Widnes, who play at Wigan tonight in the Stones Bitter championship, says: "The motion of the team working together flows forward from the defence. With your scrum half and stand-off the attacking linemen, if they don't work, then the backs cannot possibly operate."

The continued absence of Larder's first choice half-back pairing perhaps explains why Widnes have scored the fourth-fewest points in the League. Their defence, meanwhile, has turned out to be the most miserly.

When Bobby Goulding and Tony Myler direct affairs behind the scrum, Larder believes the side will gain a broader attacking vision. But they have yet to play together.

Goulding does return at scrum half tonight after a two-match suspension, but will have David Hulme as his partner. Myler, whose career has been hampered by injury, withdrew yesterday because of problems with his knees.

Should Wigan commit Widnes to move possession out wide, they will find Adrian Hadley is showing a new incisiveness since his signing from Salford, working in tandem with John Devereux, another former Welsh rugby union threequarter. Richie Eyles, with four tries, is the leading scorer in a powerful forward quartet completed by Paul Moriarty, Les Holliday and the durable New Zealander, Kurt Sorensen.

After encouraging victories over Castleford, Hull KR and Carlisle, the late surrender at home to Bradford Northern last weekend was particularly galling to Larder, the former director of coaching, now in his first club post at the age of 47.

"It was my first taste of defeat, and it wasn't pleasant," Larder said. "We were ground down and our resistance went totally. You can't afford for that to happen against any side. Do that against Wigan, and, really, we do better not to bother turning up. My respect for them is huge."

They're still the No. 1 side despite newspaper speculation about them being past it.

A win in tonight's televised match, the most eagerly-awaited of the campaign so far, would put Wigan into the familiar position of championship leaders, if only until St Helens meet Salford on Sunday. The Central Park casualty list remains lengthy, although Martin Offiah should be back before long.

## Gallagher stays put

SALFORD have abandoned talks with Leeds over the transfer of John Gallagher, the former New Zealand rugby union full back, who seems destined to work out the remaining two years of his contract at Headingley on the sidelines (Christopher Irvine writes).

With Leeds refusing to pay part of the player's outstanding contract, worth about £90,000, and Gallagher, 28, unwilling to compromise on his personal terms, the Salford chairman, John Wilkinson, said yesterday that it had been impossible to reach a deal. Under the coaching regime of Doug Laughton, Gallagher has been unable to command a regular first-team place for 18 months.

Swinson, who are fighting the threat of insolvency, are looking for an eleventh-hour rescue. The crisis at the second

division club, which has debts of £200,000 despite selling its ground and moving six miles to play at Bury football club this season, descended yesterday with the resignation from the board of John Way, a former chairman.

Malcolm White, the chairman, said Sunday's league game at Oldham and the Lancashire Cup tie against Wigan at home next Tuesday would take place. "It's quite simply really, in that if supporters want us to continue, we will. We need more fans through the gate," he said.

Stuart Pugsley, the new Leigh scrum half, twisted his knee on his first full appearance, in the Lancashire Cup defeat by Oldham on Wednesday, and is likely to be out for two weeks.

GREENALL'S LANCASHIRE CUP: Semi-final draw: St Helens v Widnes v Salford, Swinton v Wigan. Oldham. Ties to be played on October 7.

## Lewis calls in heavyweight help

BY SRIKUMAR SEN

LENNOX Lewis will be prepared for all eventualities when he meets Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, the No. 1 heavyweight contender, in the world title eliminator at Earls Court on October 31.

Whether Ruddock comes to fight or box, or both, Lewis will be ready for him. He has engaged Mike Weaver and Tony Tubbs at \$2,000 each a week as his chief sparring partners. The two former champions are exactly the right men for the job. Weaver is a heavy puncher and Tubbs is a superb boxer.

Lewis, speaking from his training camp in the Poconos

Mountains of Pennsylvania, where he will be until October 17, said that he was certain of beating Ruddock, whom many experts consider almost as dangerous as Mike Tyson.

Lewis said: "It's a very positive camp and training is going very well. So far I have used six sparring partners. Tubbs is giving me different things to think about. Ruddock isn't the same fighter that fought Tyson, but he's not shot either. After beating Ruddock I will get far more respect."

Ruddock, who at the moment weighs 235lb, is training in the heat of Puerto Rico. His trainer, Floyd Patterson,

said: "He used to tighten up and lose power. Ruddock is looser now. If he fought Tyson now he'd give him a much tougher fight: after three or four weeks I would expect him to beat him [Tyson]."

The bout, the richest heavyweight eliminator ever, will cost £4 million to stage. Lewis's sponsors, Nightstick Autosbar, will use a sales force of 7,000 to sell the remaining 7,000 or 8,000 tickets at Earls Court, which holds 12,000 people.

Crawford Ashley's challenge for the vacant European light-heavyweight title against Yaw Davis, a Ugandan-born Italian, was foiled by the rulebook. The French referee mandated the 12-round contest in Campione 115-115 after the two judges came to a split decision.

The Dutch judge also gave the boxers equal points, although the Swiss judge awarded victory to Ashley, by a clear margin. Under European Boxing Union (EBU) rules a draw was declared and the EBU must organise a rematch.

## FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated  
Barclays League  
Second division  
Stockport v Fulham  
Third division  
Darlington v York  
BORD GAS LEAGUE OF IRELAND  
Premier division: Bohemians v Derry City (8.00). Dundalk v Shelbourne (8.00)  
NEWCASTLE OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION  
First division: Norwich v Walsford; Tottenham v Charlton (2.00)

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Prescot v Darwen.  
RUGBY LEAGUE  
STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Wigan v Widnes (7.30).  
OTHER SPORT  
CYCLING: Nissan Classic (Ireland)  
GOLF: Men's home internationals (Preswick); Women's British Open (Muirfield); Golf Foundation qualifier (West Kilbride).  
SNOOKER: Regal Scottish masters (Motherwell).

## ASCOT

Going: Soft

2.00 (7) 1. LORD CHICKNEY (S. Caughen, 9-2); 2. Toss (W. Caughen, 7-2); 3. Ball Pursuit (J. Reid, 10-1); 4. ALSO RAN (J. Reid, 10-1); 5. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 6. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 7. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 8. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 9. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 10. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 11. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 12. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 13. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 14. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 15. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 16. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 17. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 18. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 19. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 20. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 21. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 22. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 23. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 24. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 25. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 26. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 27. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 28. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 29. W. Caughen (S. Caughen, 7-2); 30. W. Caughen (S. 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# Tbab can recapture winning form on softened ground

FOLLOWING further rain, supporting proven mudlarks looks the order of the day at Ascot this afternoon.

In these circumstances, Tbab is a sporting bet to win the Berkeley Handicap, even though he is handicapped with top weight for the day's most valuable race.

It may seem unusual that a horse who has won only one race heads the weights, but when he did score last season, he did so in style by ten lengths at Newcastle. And it was soft underfoot that day.

Later in the season, Tbab acquitted himself really well in the Ayr Gold Cup, finishing second to Sarcia.

This year, Tbab's best performance was at Sandown in July when the ground was

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

again soft. That day, he was beaten a head by Medaille D'Or in the Stars and Stripes Sprint, a listed race over today's distance.

Judged on that run, Miss Nossy Parker, who finished fifth, four-and-a-half lengths behind Tbab, should not beat my selection now.

I regard King's Signet and Ashina as being potentially more dangerous. The lightly-raced King's Signet, who is clearly on the upgrade, is an unknown quantity on this ground, but the bottom weight, Ashina, will relish it.

Empire Jones, who created such a favourable impression when beating the

subsequent easy Thinker winner Diddelland Melody by four lengths on his debut at Newmarket, is my idea of the likely winner of the Personnel Selection Stakes.

My search for the day's best bet though has led to Haydock, where Googly, trained in Hampshire by Bill Wightman, is named to win the Stanley Handicap in the care of Gary Bardwell, who knows her so well.

She was catching What Katy did hand over fist at the end of a nine-furlong handicap at Newbury a week ago, having been previously beaten two lengths by Top Royal over today's longer trip at Goodwood. Now she can get her revenge on Top Royal on 5lb better terms.

Longhandicap: 10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-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2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493



## Belgian course raises Faldo's interest

# Woosnam adapts to wind and rain with cool putting

FROM MEL WEBB IN KNOCKE, BELGIUM

ONLY 15 players beat par on a raw and blustery first day of the Piaget Open yesterday, and the best of the lot was the small and determined figure of Ian Woosnam, who took the lead with a 67, four under par.

Woosnam, his mercurial putting stroke enjoying one of its better days, is a shot ahead of Jim Payne and Barry Lane, with a posse of five players a stroke further back.

The magnificent rolling links of Royal Zoute is a difficult enough test in ideal conditions. The wind and rain squalls that swept over the course yesterday made par an achievement and better a small miracle.

Woosnam, starting from the 10th, had to begin with the more testing back nine, which is nearly 400 yards longer than the outward half, and he made a virtue of the fact by birdieing two of the three par-five holes to turn in 35, two under par.

On the 531-yard 12th, played into the teeth of the stiff breeze, he drilled a low, wind-cheating three-iron to the front edge of the green, and calmly took two putts from 30 feet or so for his first birdie. He saved another shot on the 15th, hitting through the slight right-to-left dog-leg, then taking a six-iron and a sand wedge to eight feet. The putt disappeared and Woosnam had achieved a positive advantage from a slightly conservative approach; an object lesson in course management, if ever there was one.

He had played pretty well up to this point, but without much doubt his best shot of the day came on the short 3rd, his 12th. He hit his tee shot miles to the right of the tee and found himself in a dreadful lie 25 yards from the hole. A bogey loomed large at that moment, but he saved the situation with a marvellous little lobbing sand-iron stroke

to four feet. It was downhill, he had no green to play with; it made the par putt a formality. Woosnam reckoned he could have played the chip another thousand times without repeating the trick. "You've got to call it lucky," he said with becoming modesty. Yes, sure, the better they are, the luckier they get.

On a bad day on the greens, Woosnam might have three-putted the 5th. But this was not a bad day on the greens, or anywhere else, and he made the 20-footer look easy.

The difficult 7th, with the pin in a cruel position on the top level of a double-tiered green and only five yards off the right edge, could cast a ball hit even a yard to the right of the flag off the putting surface. Woosnam's ball was down the slope and across it — 25 feet if it was an inch — and in it rolled.

Woosnam quite reasonably fancies his chances if the remainder of the tournament is played in anything like these conditions. But not even he will be able to ignore the presence of Nick Faldo, a couple of shots behind.

Faldo had three birdies and one bogey in his 69. "This course has got my interest level up," he said.

He sounded menacingly, like a man with victory on his mind. And when the best golfer in the world is in that sort of mood, nobody is safe.

## SCORES FROM KNOCKE

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS (GB and Ireland started 67): Woosnam, 67; Lane, 68; Payne, 69; D. Cooke, 70; Faldo, 71; A. Lane, 72; J. Bland, 73; S. Ballesteros, 74; L. Lee, 75; J. Turner, 76; J. Bland, 77; R. Arnold, 78; J. Bland, 79; J. Bland, 80; J. Bland, 81; J. Bland, 82; J. Bland, 83; J. Bland, 84; J. Bland, 85; J. Bland, 86; J. Bland, 87; J. Bland, 88; J. Bland, 89; J. Bland, 90; J. Bland, 91; J. Bland, 92; J. Bland, 93; J. Bland, 94; J. Bland, 95; J. Bland, 96; J. Bland, 97; J. Bland, 98; J. Bland, 99; J. Bland, 100; J. Bland, 101; J. Bland, 102; J. Bland, 103; J. Bland, 104; J. Bland, 105; J. Bland, 106; J. Bland, 107; J. Bland, 108; J. Bland, 109; J. Bland, 110; J. Bland, 111; J. Bland, 112; J. Bland, 113; J. Bland, 114; J. Bland, 115; J. Bland, 116; J. Bland, 117; J. Bland, 118; J. Bland, 119; J. Bland, 120; J. Bland, 121; J. Bland, 122; J. Bland, 123; J. Bland, 124; J. Bland, 125; J. Bland, 126; J. Bland, 127; J. Bland, 128; J. Bland, 129; J. Bland, 130; J. Bland, 131; J. 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# Surrey are found guilty and get a suspended fine

**By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT**

But he did play against Gloucestershire, at Cheltenham in 1990, and against Yorkshire, at Guildford last year, when the umpires concerned also reported their

## THE MATCHES

July 25-29, 1990, Cheltenham  
 Gloucestershire 307; Wager Younie 23-4-69; M P Picknett 24-4-83; Feltham 18-2-73; Greig 2-0-4-0; Medlycott 35-10-82; and 202-4-2 (Wager Younie 13-4-39; M P Picknett 35-0-17-1; Feltham 18-2-73; Greig 2-0-4-0; Medlycott 35-10-82); Sundry 20-6-4 and 302-9. Drawn: 2.

July 18-22, 1991, Guildford  
 Yorkshire 289 (Wager Younie 28-5-54; Murphy 28-6-62; Feltham 34-2-10-84); Thorne 6-4-8; Medlycott 34-2-10-84; Greig 2-0-4-0; Sundry 20-6-4 and 302-9. Drawn: 1.

July 11-13-20, Medlycott 17-6-39; Feltham 6-1-30-0; Sundry 250-2-4 and 183-9. Survey won by 1 wicket.

August 14-17, 1992, The Oval  
 Lancashire 216 (Benjamin 17-4-52; Medlycott 11-3-33-0; Kendrick 28-5-10-81; Greig 2-0-4-0; Sundry 20-6-4 and 302-9); 25-0; and 267-5 (Benjamin 17-0-67-1; Medlycott 12-3-0-4-0; Kendrick 26-5-60-0; M P Picknett 18-2-48-2; Boling 8-2-41-0; Greig 2-0-4-0 and 183; Lancashire W.M.P. 27-6-1).

I understand there are no other cases of this nature in the board's pending tray and that Surrey remain the one county to be reported for the offence. Inevitably, they will be under intense scrutiny next year, when Waqar returns to their ranks, and the same is likely to apply to Lancashire, who will welcome back Wasim Akram.

Ken Lawrence, the TCCB spokesman, insisted yesterday: "All eyes may be on Lancashire and Surrey but our umpires will be even-handed. We want to stamp out ball-tampering, however little of it there may be."

**Disappointing day: Dottie Mochrie chips to the 14th during her round of 74**

## Sheehan would like to see British Open on US Tour

**By MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT**

Then she revealed that she obtained a place in the event only as the fifth alternate, after the four American players

[illegible]

Incessant rain made conditions almost intolerable in the morning. Sheehan said that she played in such weather only once or twice each year.

[illegible]

At the 1st, she played a lovely punched seven-iron under a tree to 15 feet for a birdie. Then she hit another excellent shot at the 2nd, a punched eight-iron to ten feet below the hole. Sheehan dropped a shot at the next, but she coaxed four birdies out of the last six holes.

Davies hung a millstone around her neck by taking seven at the 10th, which was her first hole.

## Mansell advised to show restraint

**BY NORMAN HOWELL.**

"If you cut anybody up, this would result in an accident." And accidents can be fatal, not

Meanwhile there will be only 24 cars on the starting line for the Portuguese Grand Prix on Sunday as Brabham and Fondmetal have not made it here.

# Fox given ban after drugs test

"He would not deliberately take a substance to enhance his performance and it was not premeditated. We shall be contacting the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to establish his right of appeal."

## McMenemy issues note of caution on Gascoigne


**Stuart Jones reports from Rome on the next step for Paul Gascoigne after the euphoria of his long-awaited return to action for Lazio**

nursed Gascoigne through his prolonged recuperation, is convinced that his celebrated patient will be "back to his best or even better within a few months. He is 100 per cent now. All he needs is to play more games".

"It is a hot potato," he said yesterday, "but our manager needs his men for 90 minutes. We'll have to see whether Gascoigne can last that long [he was withdrawn after 65 on Wednesday night] and we must be careful. Lazio is not

that he's come back after all that time and played like he did. He has the kind of appeal which might fill the void left by Maradona. He can become a bigger star than me."

Gascoigne's ascent into Lazio's firmament will depend



**Gascoigne: raring to go**

**Norwegian threat, page 35**  
**Youngs' demand, page 35**

## Change to Interest Rates.

**With effect from close of business on 24th September 1992 the following Business Deposit rates are applicable to the accounts set out below:**

	RATE PER ANNUM*	
	GROSS%	GROSS C.A.R.%
<b><u>MANAGED ACCOUNT</u></b>		
<b><u>Instant Access Cheque Account</u></b>		
£100,000+	7.00	7.19
£50,000-99,999	6.50	6.66
£10,000-49,999	6.00	6.14
£2,000-9,999	2.50	2.52
£1-1,999	1.00	1.00

<b><u>SCHOOLS BANKING ACCOUNT</u></b>		
	7.50	7.71

<b><u>CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT**</u></b>		
<b>\$100,000+</b>	<b>8 50</b>	<b>8 50</b>

£50,000-99,999	8.00	8.24
£10,000-49,999	7.50	7.71

£10,000-15,999	1.80	1.71
£2,000-9,999	5.50	5.61
£1-1,999	1.00	1.00

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<b>£10,000-49,999</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>7.71</b>
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**James dropped, page 35**